



NO. 10024 RS. 80

Bengali Classics



3 Illustrated Classics from India

Anand Math • Devi Choudhurani • Kapala Kundala

ANANDA MATH

PAY TAX!

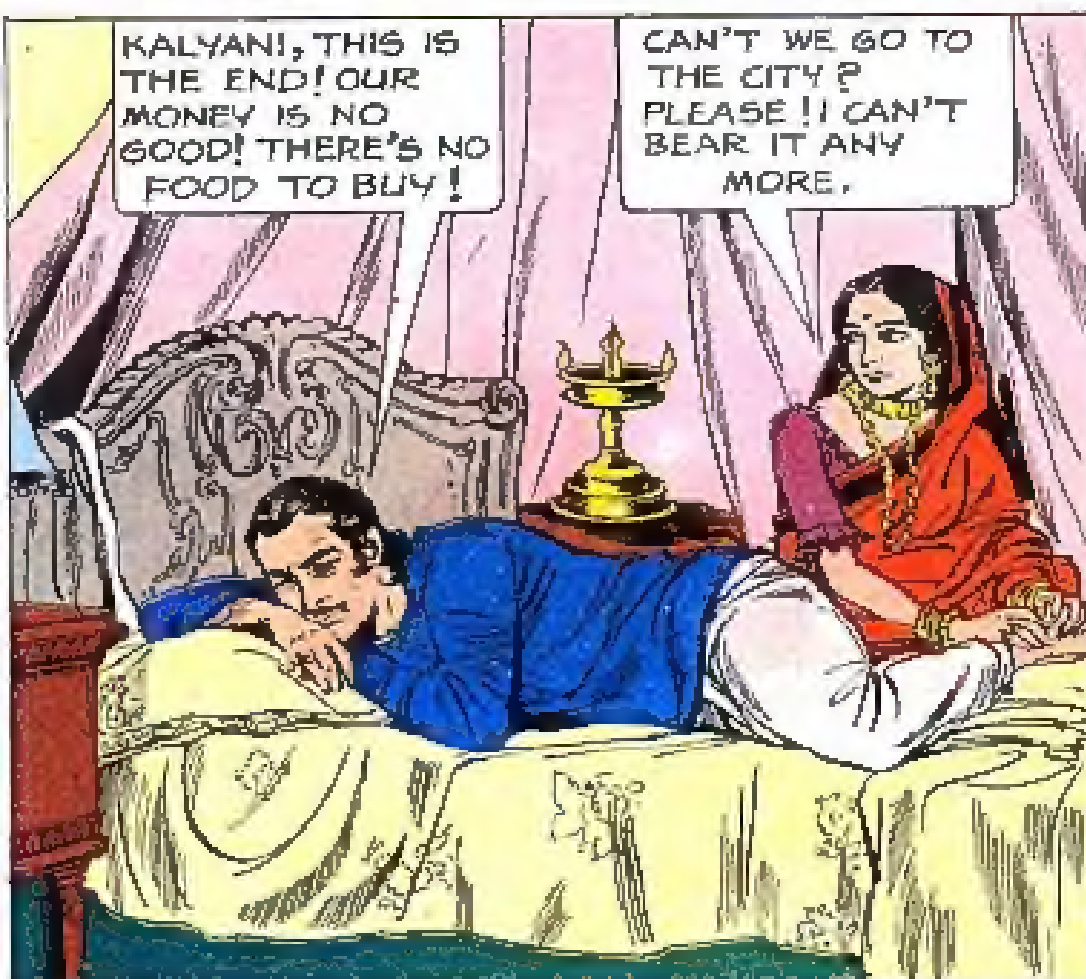
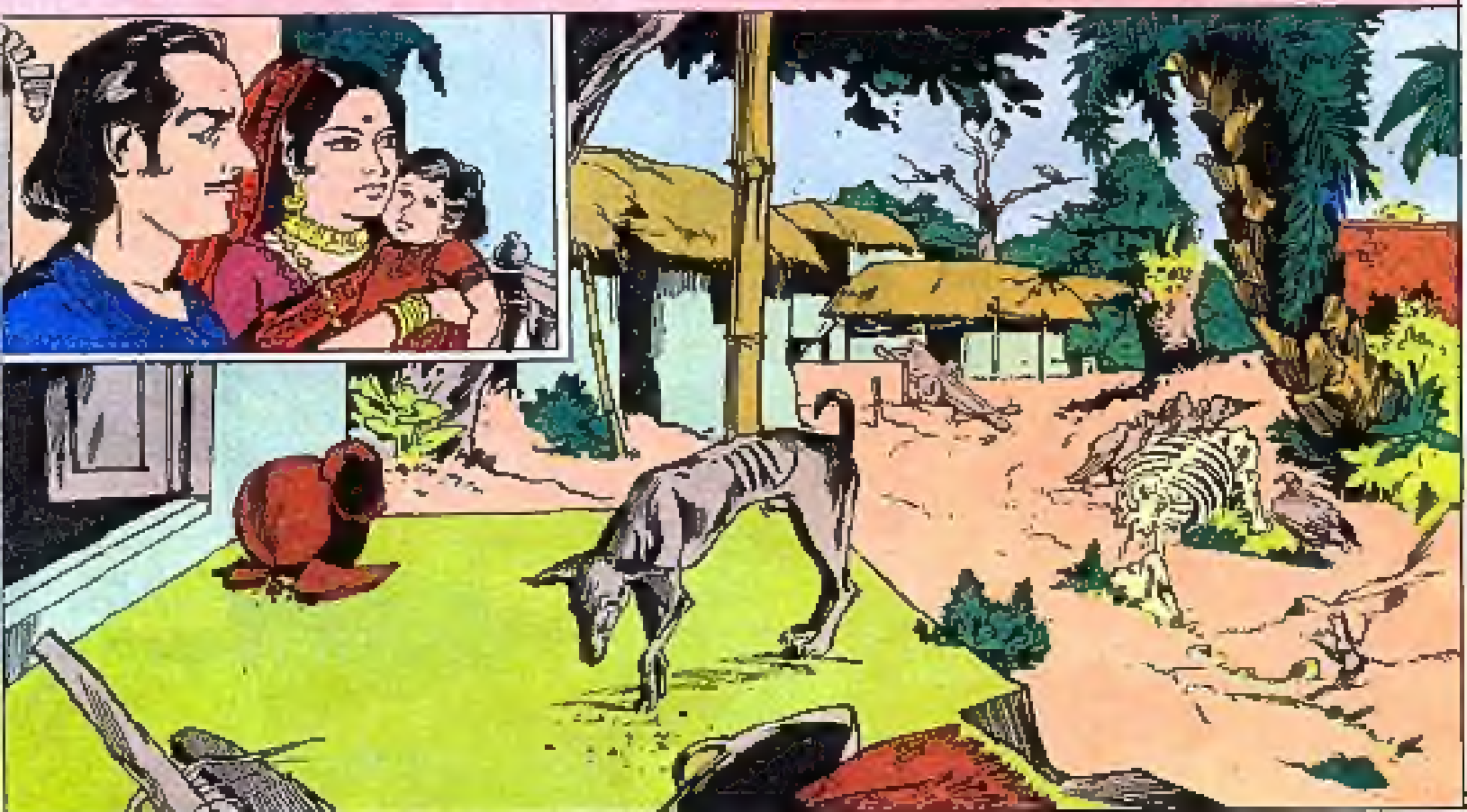
PLEASE! WE SHALL DIE HUNGRY!

THEN DIE!

THEY HAVE TAKEN ALL WE HAD!

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY BENGAL. THE BRITISH RULE HAD SPREAD ITS TENTACLES FAR AND WIDE. THE SWORD HAD DRAINED THE LAND OF ITS RICHES. WHILE THE PEOPLE STARVED, THE OPPRESSOR LAUGHED... AND LOOTED. THE MUSLIM KING, WHO RULED, WAS A PUPPET IN BRITISH HANDS.

IN 1773 A.D. PADACHIHNO, ONCE A FLOURISHING VILLAGE WAS REDUCED TO UTTER POVERTY. THE VILLAGERS HAD FLED TO THE CITY WHERE BEGGING MIGHT BRING SOME FOOD. ONLY THREE PEOPLE STAYED ON - MAHENDRA, THE ZAMINDAR OF THE VILLAGE, HIS WIFE AND HIS CHILD.



KALYANI, THIS IS THE END! OUR MONEY IS NO GOOD! THERE'S NO FOOD TO BUY!

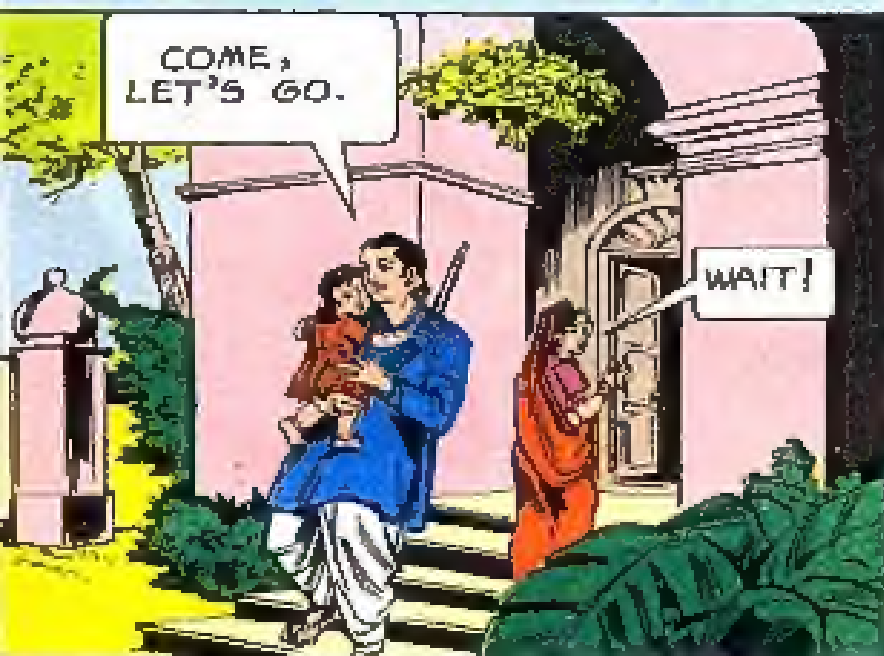
CAN'T WE GO TO THE CITY? PLEASE! I CAN'T BEAR IT ANY MORE.



IF WE GO AWAY, THE DACOITS WILL SEIZE OUR PROPERTY.

IF THEY COME NOW, CAN YOU STOP THEM? PLEASE, LET'S LEAVE.

KALYANI'S COUNSEL PREVAILED.
AS A PRECAUTION, MAHENDRA
ARMED HIMSELF AND SET OUT.



AFTER WALKING FOR MILES
THEY CAME UPON A DESERTED HUT.

LET US REST
HERE. THE
CHILD IS
HUNGRY.

YOU WAIT INSIDE THE HUT.
I'LL TRY TO FIND
SOME ROOTS
AND FRUITS.



WHILE KALYANI WAITED -



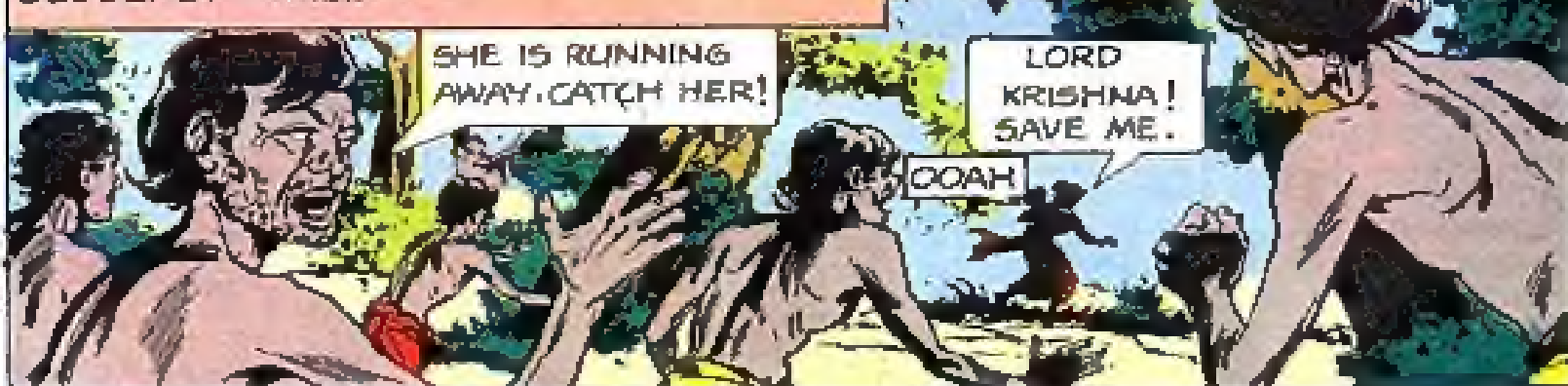
SEIZING HER BY THE HAND THEY
DRAGGED HER TOWARDS THE FOREST.



INSIDE THE FOREST, WHEN THE DACOITS
WERE BUSY INSPECTING THEIR LOOT,
KALYANI TRIED TO ESCAPE ...



...BUT, HUNGRY AND CROSS, THE CHILD
SUDDENLY WELLED.



KALYANI DID NOT GIVE UP.
SHE RAN ON AND ON. AT LAST—

I CAN'T RUN ANY FARTHER.
DO I HEAR A SOOTHING
VOICE OR IS IT MY
IMAGINATION?



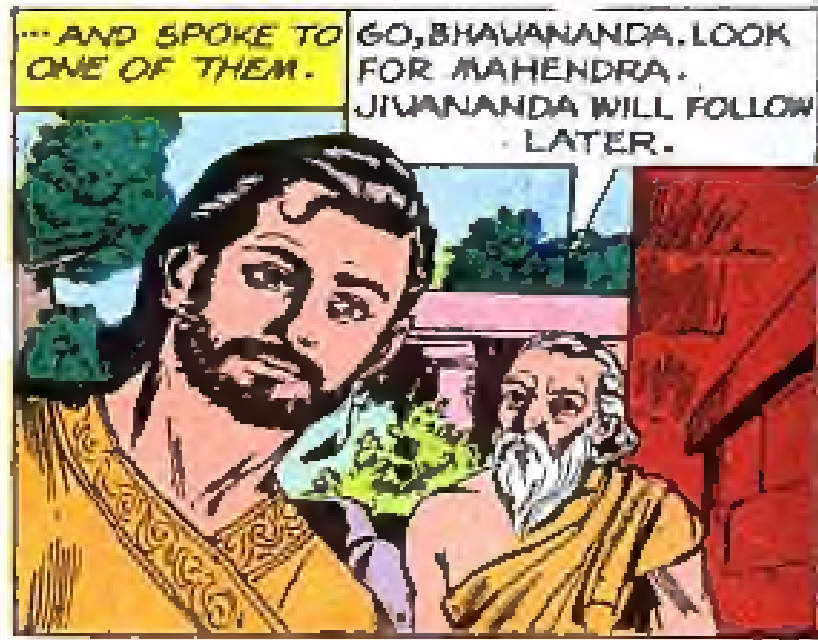
THE NEXT MOMENT KALYANI
FELL, UNCONSCIOUS, AT THE
FEET OF A TALL SANTLY MAN.





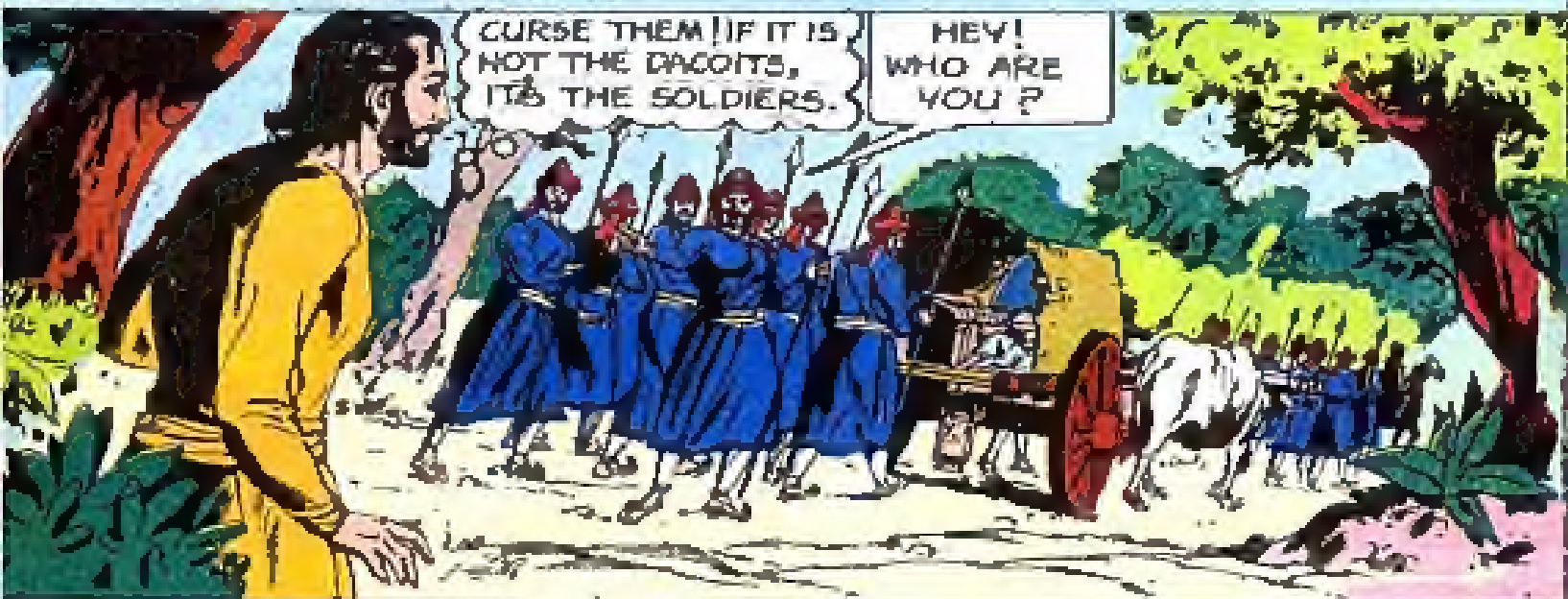
LATER --
WHERE AM I?
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU ARE SAFE.
THE DACOITS
CAN'T COME
HERE. TELL
ME YOUR
STORY.

THE HERMIT WHO HAD SAVED KALYANI
WAS SATYANANDA. HE HAD MANY
DISCIPLES. HE WENT OUT...



... AND SPOKE TO
ONE OF THEM.
GO, BHAVANANDA. LOOK
FOR MAHENDRA.
JIVANANDA WILL FOLLOW
LATER.

MAHENDRA, MEANWHILE, HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY THE SOLDIERS. BHAVANANDA
FOUND HIM IN THEIR CUSTODY.



CURSE THEM! IF IT IS
NOT THE DACOITS,
IT'S THE SOLDIERS.
HEY!
WHO ARE
YOU?

BHAVANANDA DELIBERATELY
LET THEM CATCH HIM.

I MUST GET
NEAR MAHENDRA.

SPARE ME.
I AM A
SANYASI.



A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING,
YOU MEAN. MAKE HIM
CARRY THE MONEY-CHEST.



I MUST GET ON THAT CART SOMEHOW. THIS SHOULD HELP ME.



THE ROGUE! TIE HIM UP AND THROW HIM IN THE CART.

IT WORKED!



MAHENDRA! I HAVE COME TO RESCUE YOU.

WHO ARE YOU? HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?



THERE'S NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS. QUICK! PUT YOUR WRISTS ON THAT WHEEL. IT WILL CUT THE ROPE.

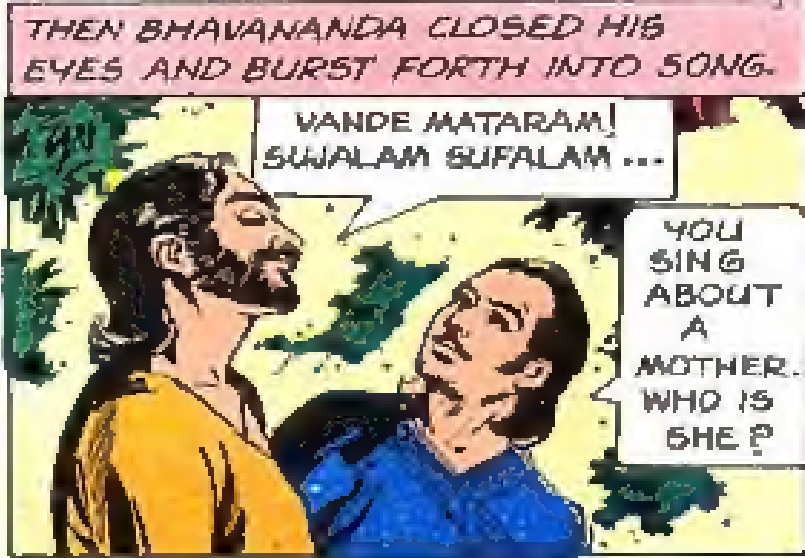


JIVANANDA SHOULD SOON BE HERE.

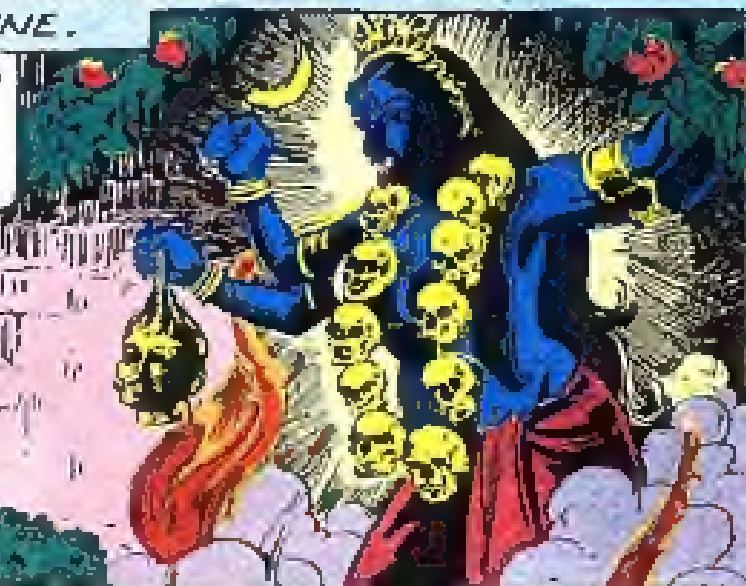


SUDDENLY -

LOOK! ANOTHER SANYASI!



INSIDE ANANDA MATH, SATYANANDA TOOK MAHENDRA THROUGH A NETWORK OF TUNNELS TO A LARGE SHRINE.



WHEN MAHENDRA CAME OUT—



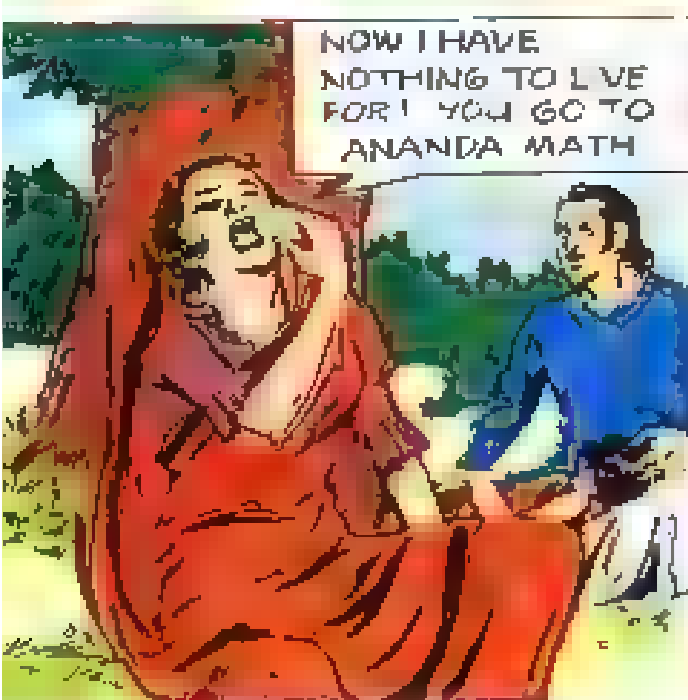
KALYANI SHED TEARS OF JOY.



JUST THEN UNNOTICED BY THEM
THEIR CHILD HAD PICKED UP THE
CASKET OF POISON.



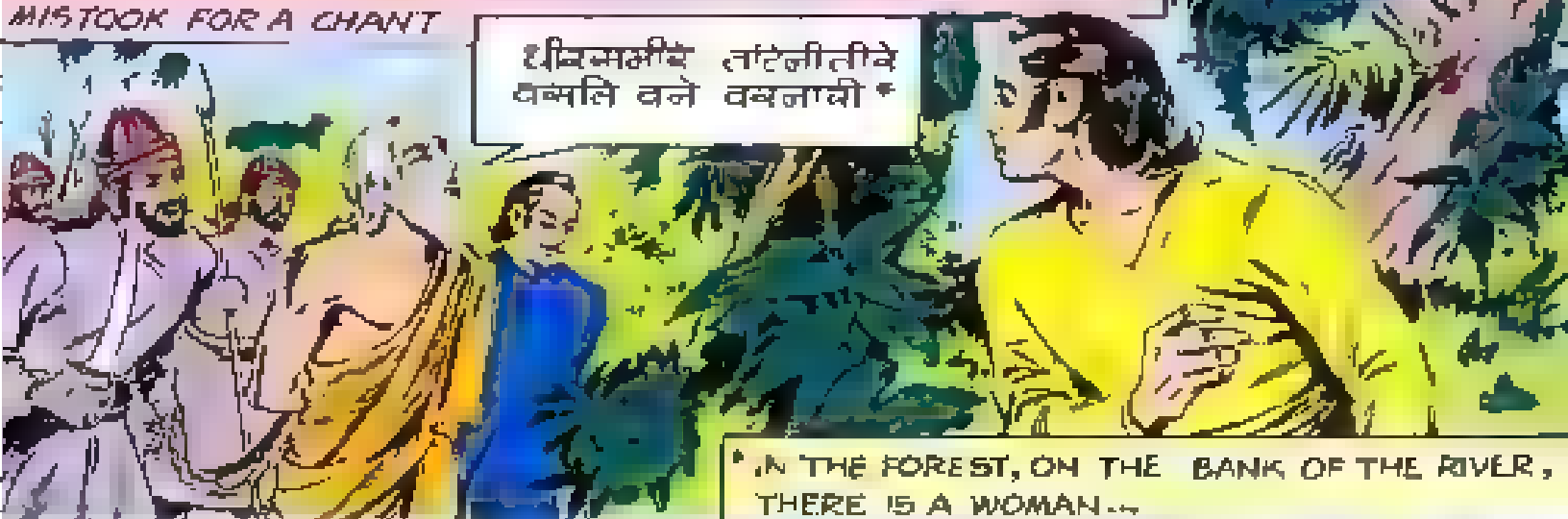
SHE HAS SWALLOWED
SOME OF IT. MAKE
HER SPIT IT OUT.



IT WAS SATYANANDA.

SATYANANDA SPIED JIVANANDA HIDING BEHIND A BUSH HE CALLED OUT SOMETHING IN SANSKRIT WHICH THE CAPTORS MISTOOK FOR A CHANT

एवमस्मीन् तटनीतीवे
वसन्ति वने वनजायौ *



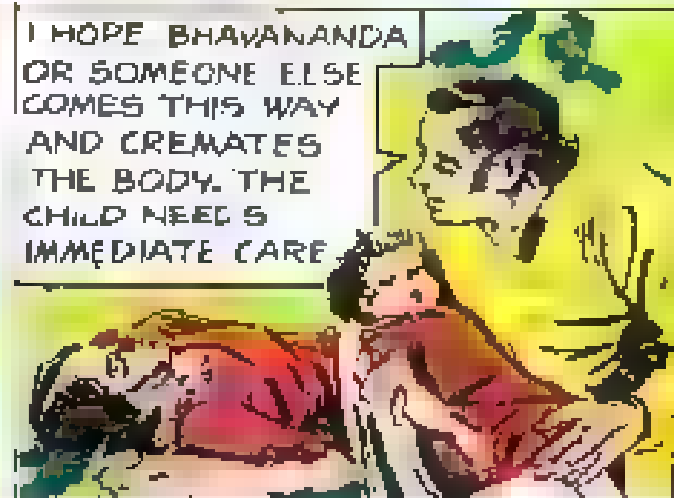
* IN THE FOREST, ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER, THERE IS A WOMAN...

JIVANANDA SOON FOUND KALYANI.



THE MOTHER IS DEAD.
BUT THE CHILD IS ALIVE.
IT MUST BE MAHENDRA'S
FAMILY

I HOPE BHAVANANDA
OR SOMEONE ELSE
COMES THIS WAY
AND CREMATES
THE BODY. THE
CHILD NEEDS
IMMEDIATE CARE.



SINCE HE WAS A SANTAN, JIVANANDA COULD NOT GO TO HIS WIFE TILL THE LAND WAS FREE SO HE WENT TO HIS SISTER'S HOUSE.

I WANT YOU TO
TAKE CARE
OF THIS CHILD.

WHAT A PRETTY
CHILD. GIVE IT TO ME.



AS JIVANANDA TURNED TO GO,
SHANTI, HIS WIFE REACHED THERE.

SHANTI, YOU LOOK
UNHAPPY. WHAT'S
THE MATTER?

MY LIFE HAS NO
MEANING WITHOUT YOU



WITH A HEAVY HEART JIVANANDA
PARTED FROM HIS WIFE

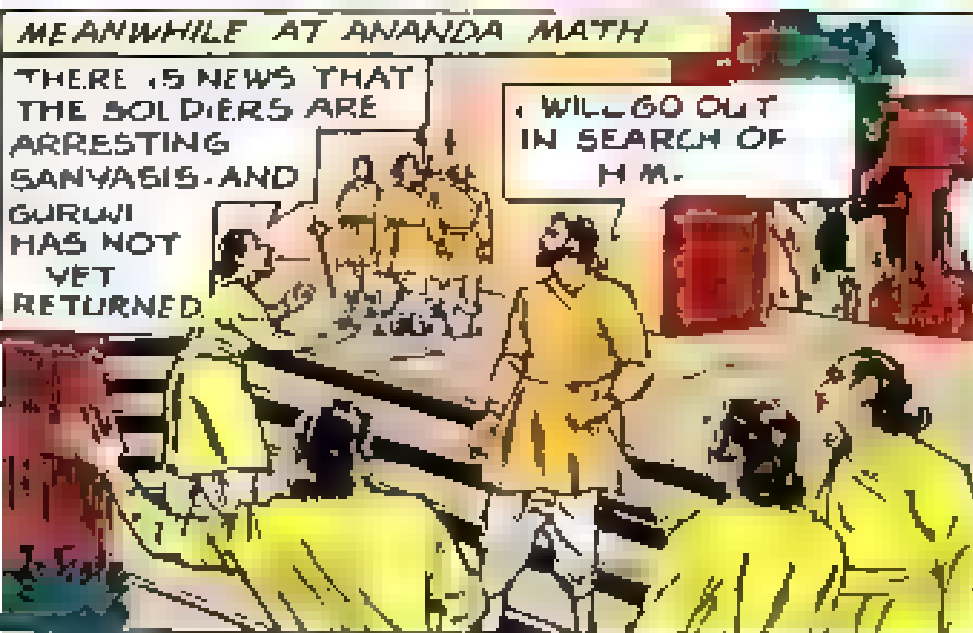
I WILL FOLLOW
HIM



MEANWHILE AT ANANDA MATH

THERE IS NEWS THAT
THE SOLDIERS ARE
ARRESTING
SANYASIS AND
GURUJI
HAS NOT
YET
RETURNED

I WILL GO OUT
IN SEARCH OF
HIM.

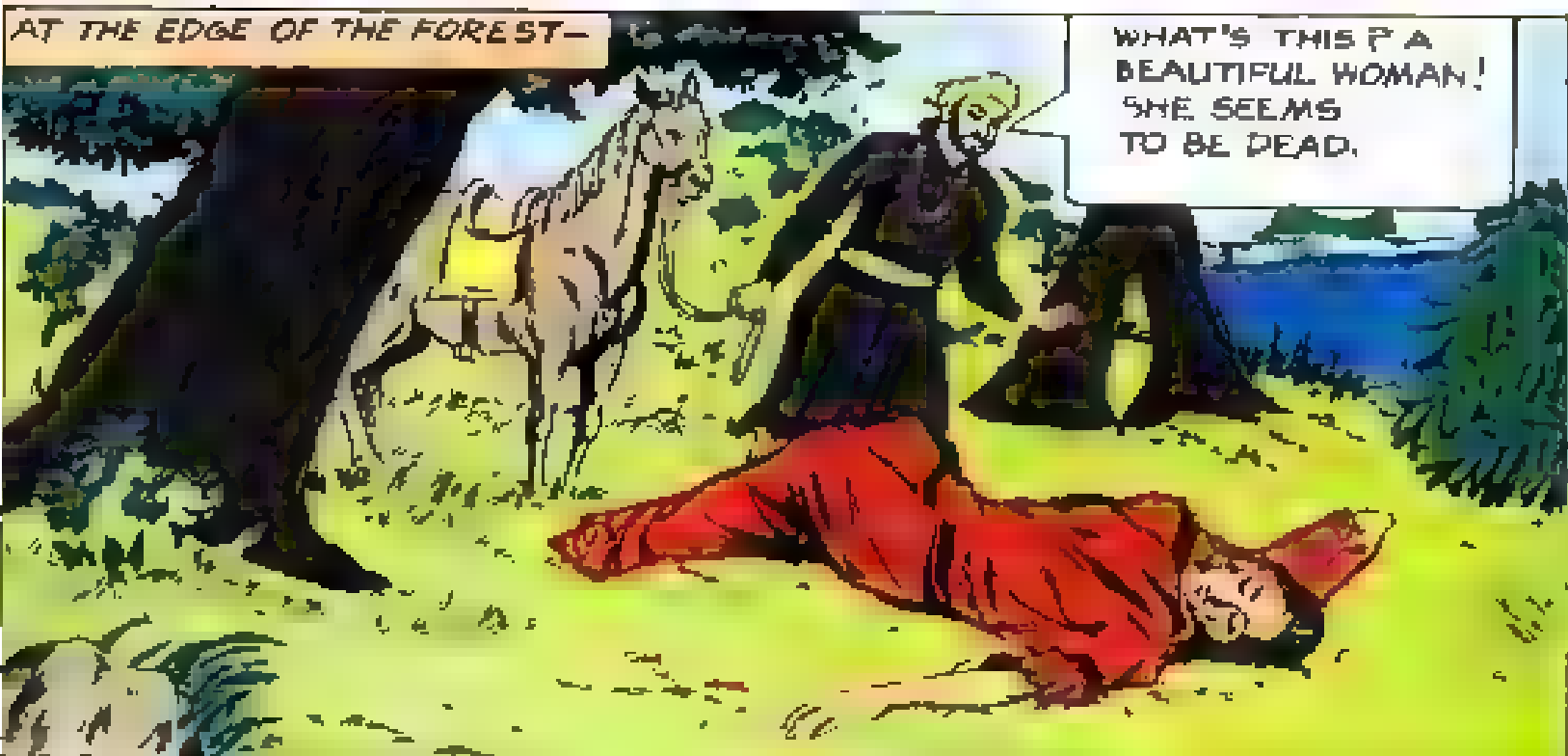


DRESSED AS A NOBLEMAN,
BHAVANANDA LEFT ON
HORSEBACK.



AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST—

WHAT'S THIS? A
BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!
SHE SEEMS
TO BE DEAD.



BHAVANANDA BROUGHT SOME HERBS AND POURED THEIR JUICE INTO KALYANI'S MOUTH.



SHE IS BREATHING.

I'LL TAKE HER TO THE CITY AND LEAVE HER IN A SAFE PLACE. I WONDER WHO SHE IS



MEANWHILE, AT ANANDA MATH - GURUJI AND MAHENDRA ARE IN THE CITY JAIL. BHAVANANDA HAS NOT RETURNED EITHER. WE'LL FREE OUR GURUJI.



ARMED WITH SWORDS AND SPEARS, THE SANTANS LEFT FOR THE CITY.



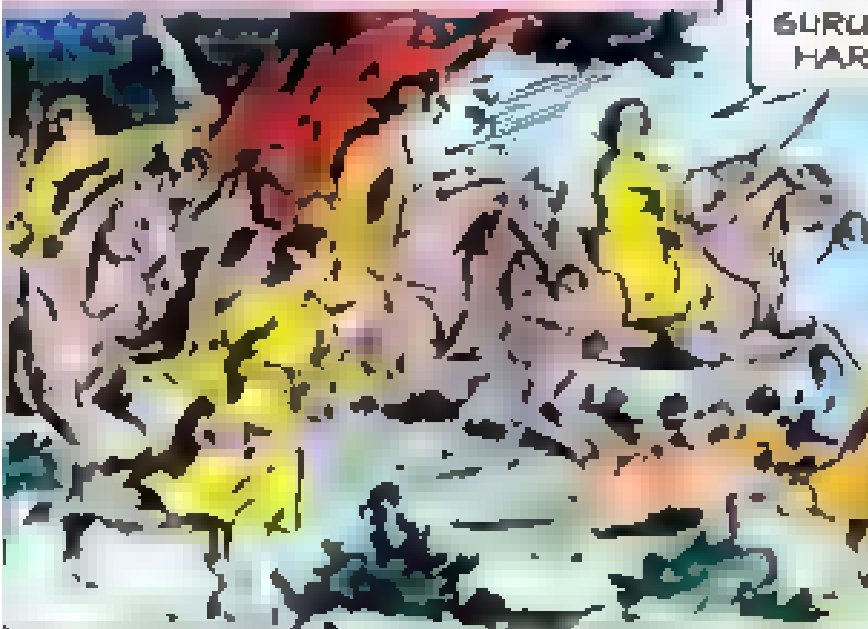
HARE MURARE!

BOLDLY THEY ATTACKED THE GUARDS OF THE JAIL AND FREED SATYANANDA AND MAHENDRA



I AM PLEASED WITH YOU THE DAY OUR LAND WILL BE FREE IS NOT FAR OFF.

AS THEY WERE KILLED I WAAH
ANANDA MATH—



BRITISH SOLDIERS!
THEY'VE HEARD OF
GURUJI'S ESCAPE!
HARI! HARI!



THE SWORDS AND SPEARS WERE NO
MATCH AGAINST THE GUNS WHICH
FELL



LATER BHALANANDA YOU REACHED
THE GENE POOL

A PART THIS
SAYING IS
MEANING



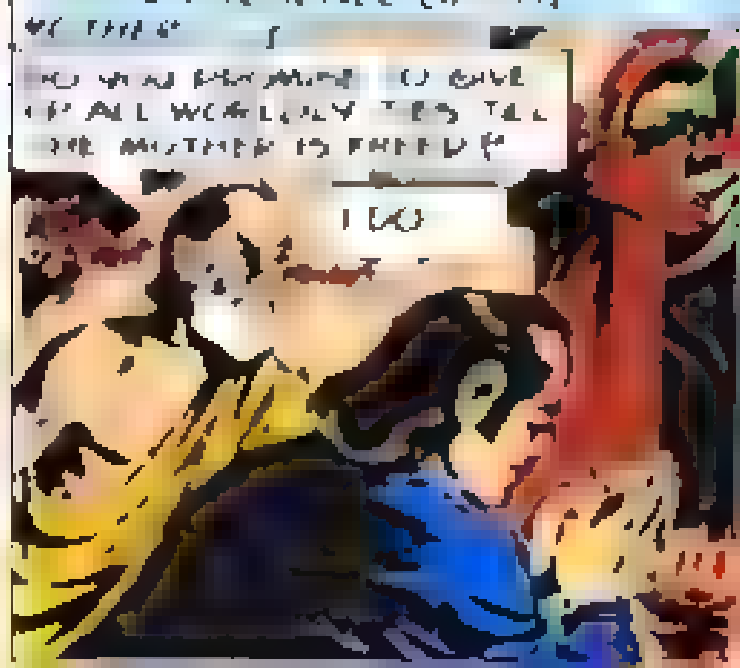
THAT NIGHT AT ANANDA MATH

HE WAS
INITIATED AS A
SANYASI. I'LL READILY
DIE FOR THE CAUSE



IN THE PRESENCE OF THE
VETTER

NO MAN WOULD GIVE
UP ALL WEALTHY THINGS
THE MOTHER IS FREE



THERE WAS SOMEBODY ELSE
WAITING TO BE ORDAINED TOO.

DO YOU PROMISE TO GIVE
YOUR LIFE, IF NEED BE,
TO FREE THE
MOTHER?

I DO



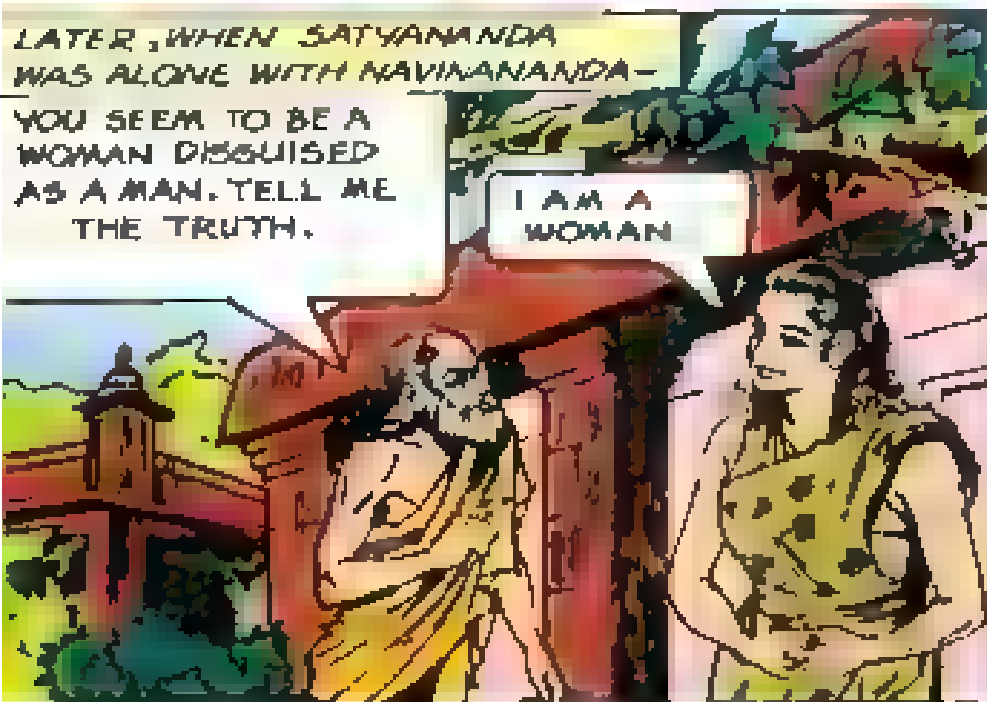
I NAME YOU
NAV NANANDA



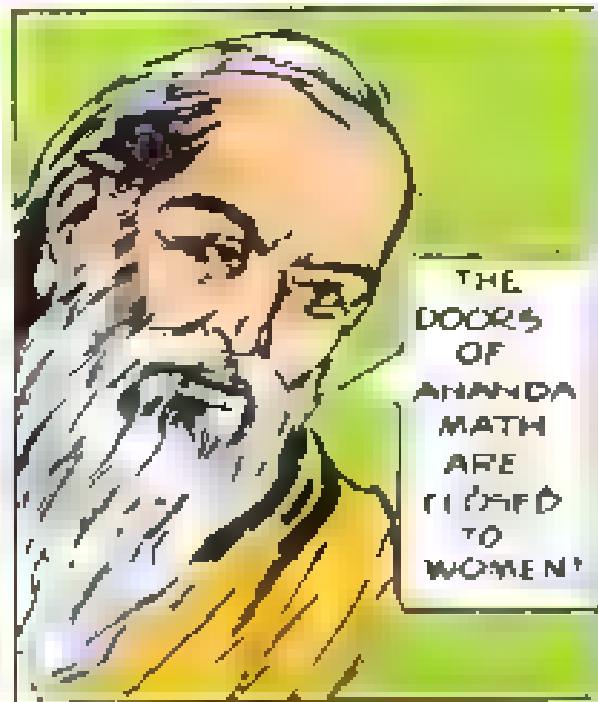
LATER, WHEN SATYANANDA
WAS ALONE WITH NAVINANANDA-

YOU SEEM TO BE A
WOMAN DISGUISED
AS A MAN. TELL ME
THE TRUTH.

I AM A
WOMAN



THE
DOORS
OF
ANANDA
MATH
ARE
CLOSED
TO
WOMEN!



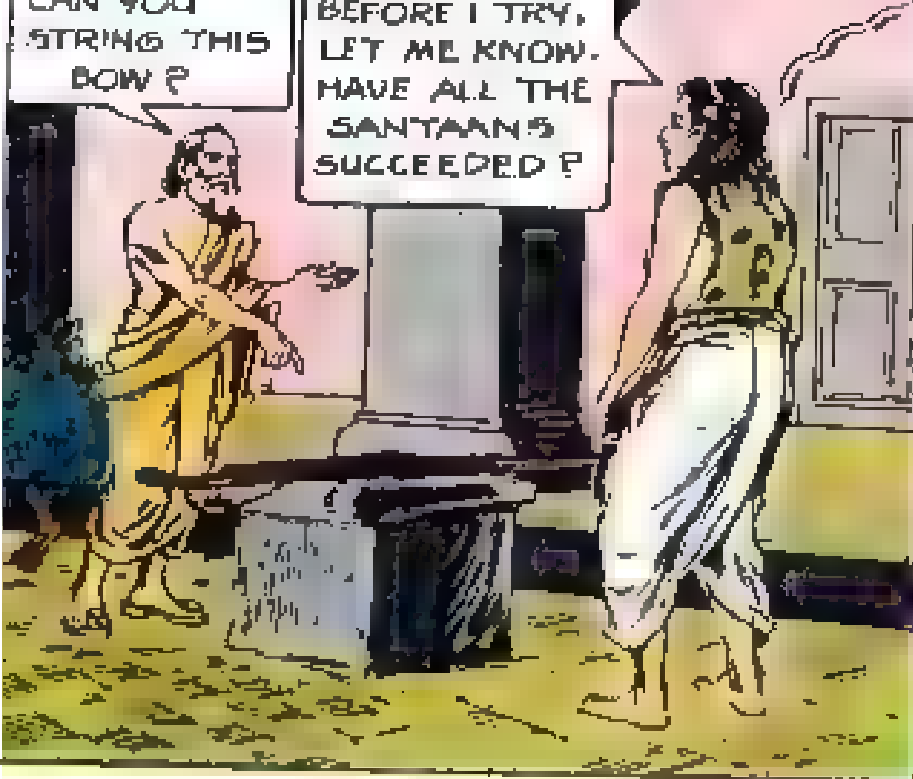
WHY?

WE ARE HERE
TO FIGHT FOR
THE MOTHER.
WHAT CAN
YOU DO?

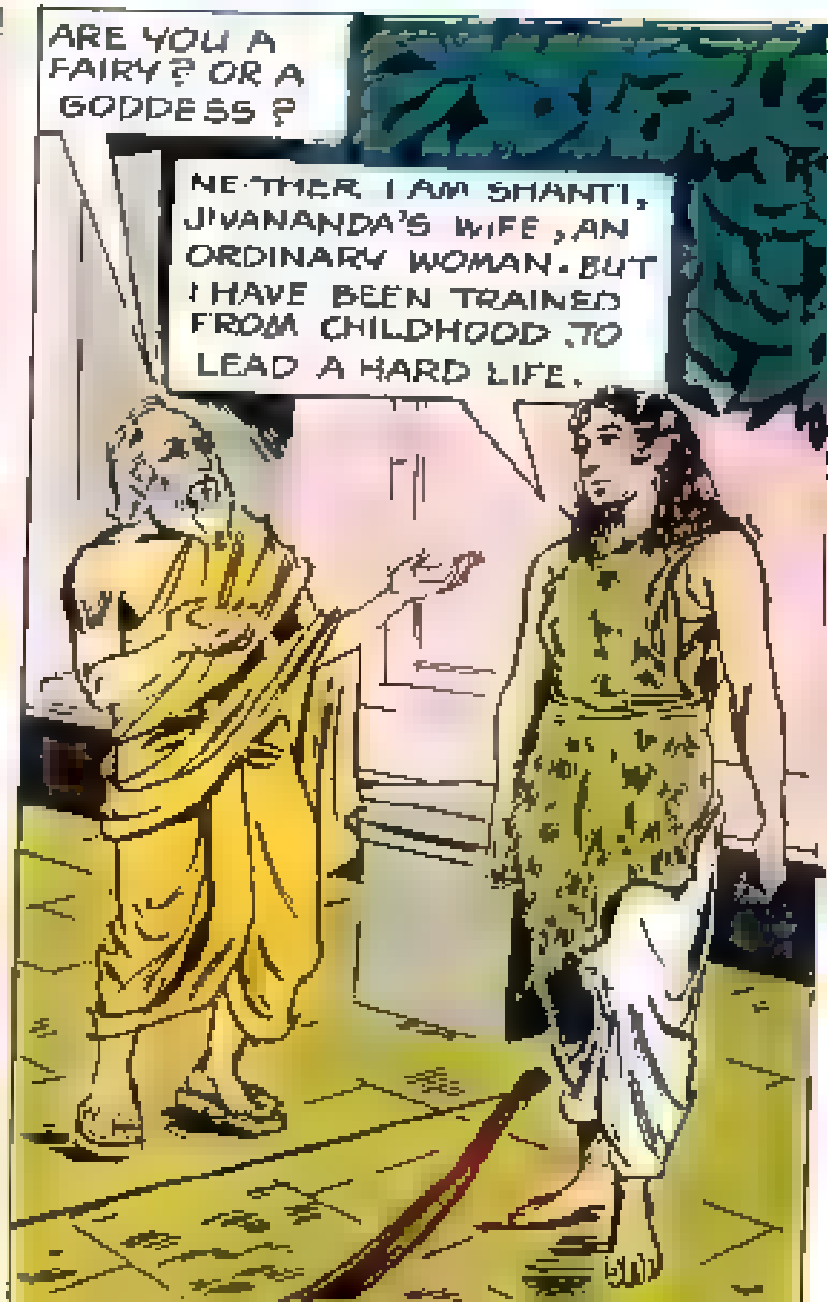


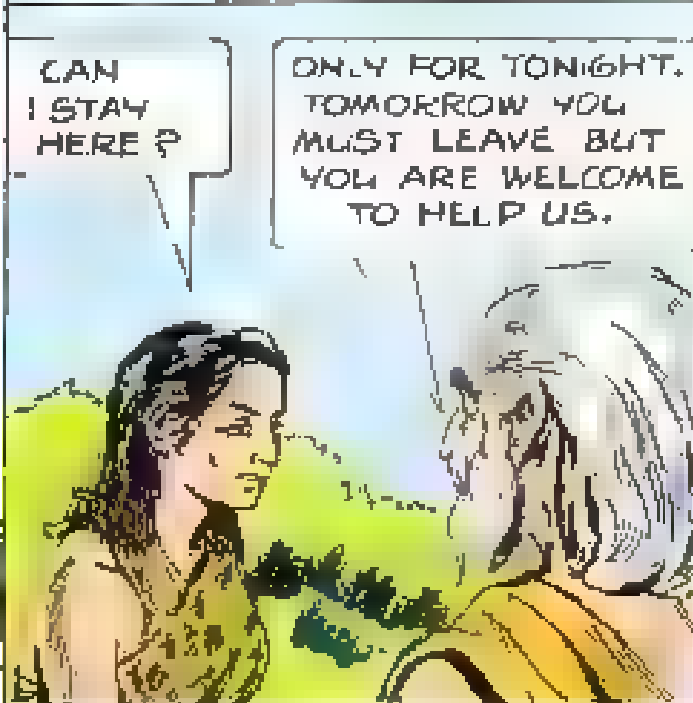
I CAN FIGHT
AS WELL AS
ANY MAN.
TEST ME





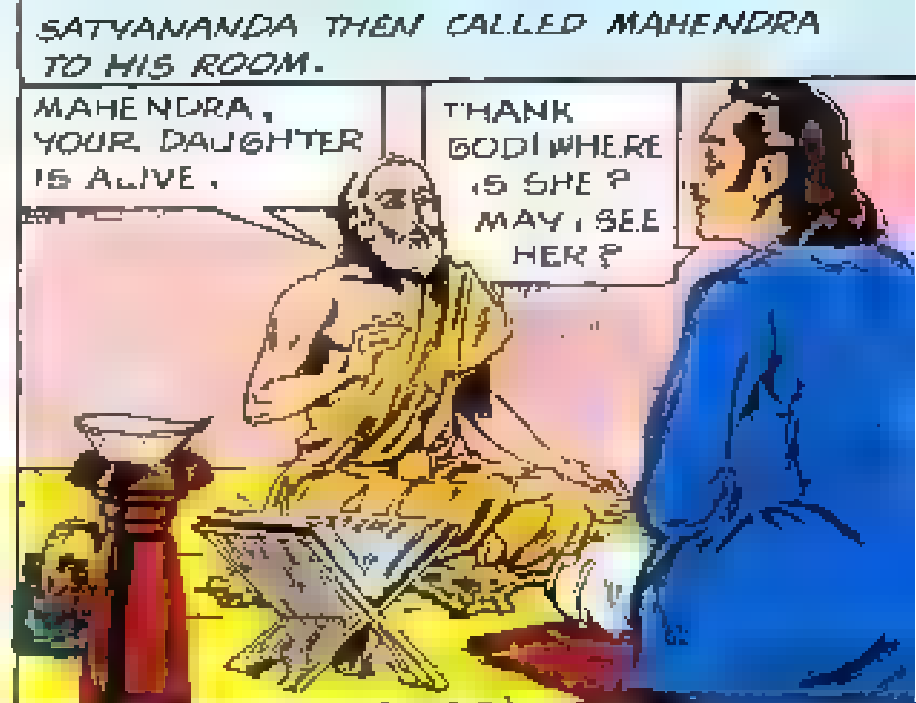
BEFORE SATYANANDA COULD
COMPLETE THE SENTENCE SHANTI
HAD STRUNG THE BOW AND THROWN
IT AT THE FEET OF SATYANANDA.





CAN I STAY HERE ?

ONLY FOR TONIGHT. TOMORROW YOU MUST LEAVE BUT YOU ARE WELCOME TO HELP US.

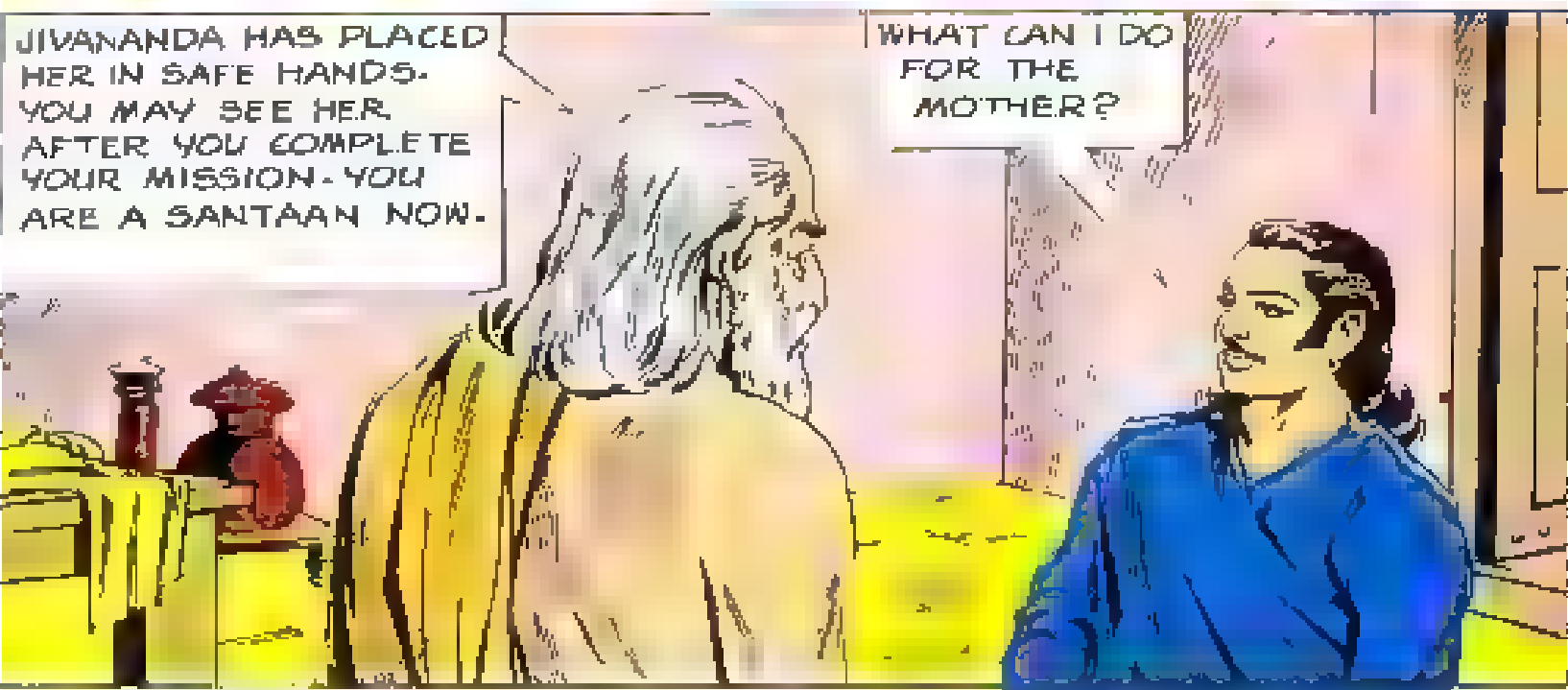


SATYANANDA THEN CALLED MAHENDRA TO HIS ROOM.

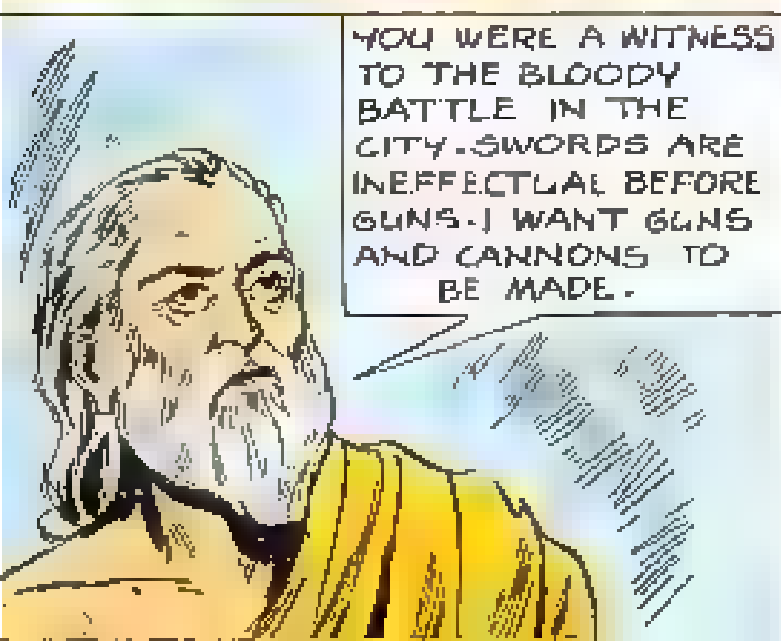
MAHENDRA, YOUR DAUGHTER IS ALIVE.

THANK GOD! WHERE IS SHE ? MAY I SEE HER ?

JIVANANDA HAS PLACED HER IN SAFE HANDS. YOU MAY SEE HER AFTER YOU COMPLETE YOUR MISSION. YOU ARE A SANTAN NOW.



WHAT CAN I DO FOR THE MOTHER ?

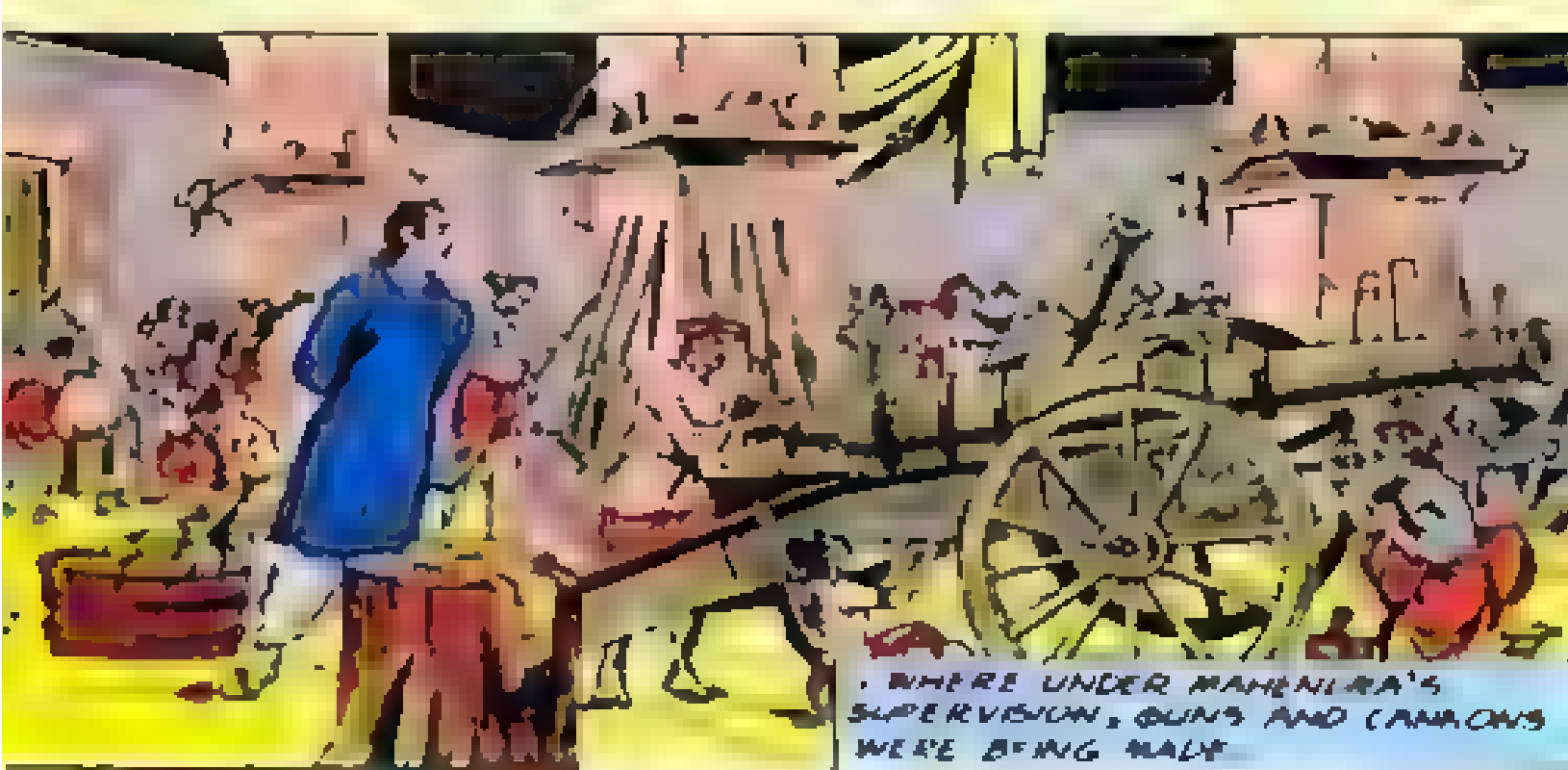


YOU WERE A WITNESS TO THE BLOODY BATTLE IN THE CITY. SWORDS ARE INEFFECTUAL BEFORE GUNS. I WANT GUNS AND CANNONS TO BE MADE.



AT PADACHIHNO YOU HAVE A BIG HOUSE WHICH CAN BE SECRETLY CONVERTED INTO A FOUNDRY. THE VILLAGE CAN BE CONVERTED INTO A FORT.

SATYANANDA WENT ON A TOUR OF THE COUNTRY HE SENT EXPERT
GUNSMITHS AND SMITHSMITHS TO PADALPINNO, NOW A STRONG FORT



AFTER ABOUT A YEAR, THE SANTANS GATHERED IN A MANGO GROVE
THEIR RANKS HAD SWELLED TO OVER TEN THOUSAND THEY WERE EAGERLY
AWAITING THE ARRIVAL OF SATYANANDA, THEIR GURU



SATYANANDA CAME.

BROTHERS!
VICTORY IS NOT
FAR OFF. VANDE
MATARAM!

VANDE MATARAM! WE
ARE READY. LET US
MARCH ON CAPT
THOMAS.

THE TIME
IS NOT YET
RIPE. WE
WILL HAVE
TO WAIT
AWHILE.

BUT SUDDENLY



SHE WAS FIRED BY BRITISH CANNONS,
BURST AROUND THEM.

THE BRITISH HAVE COME.

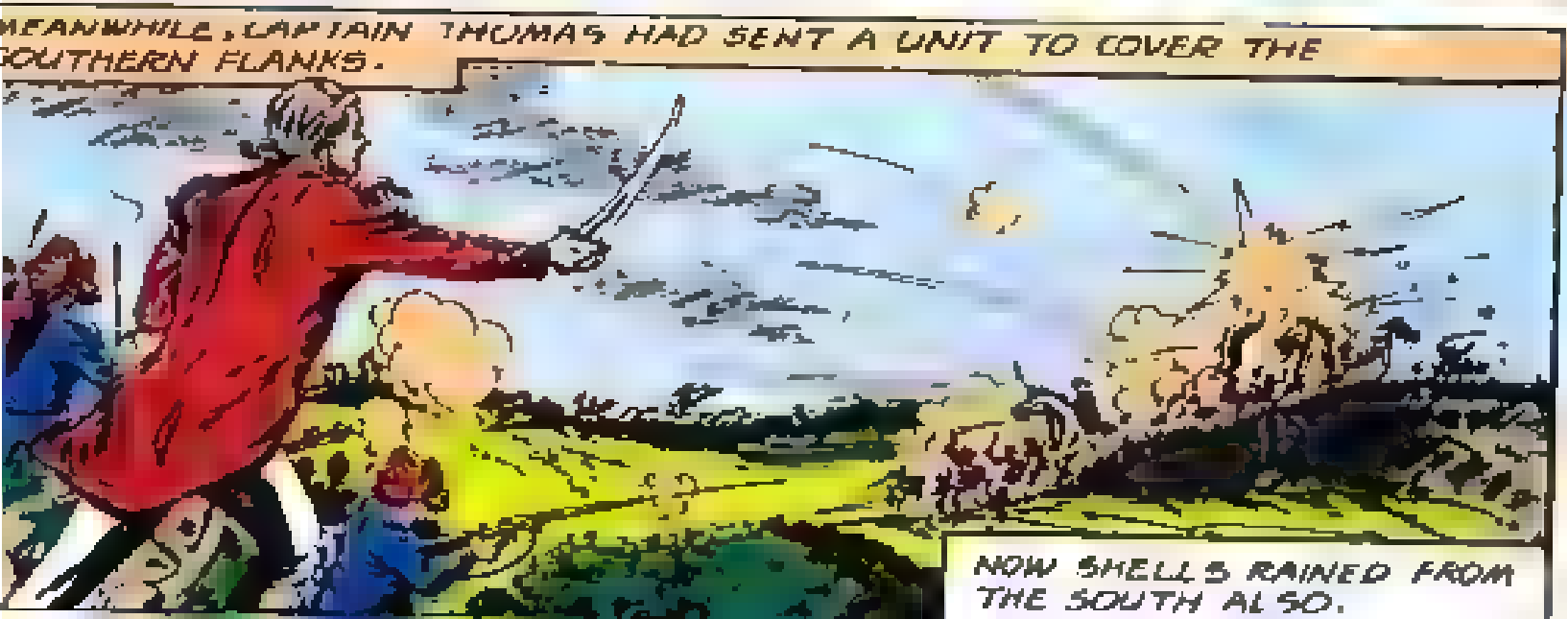
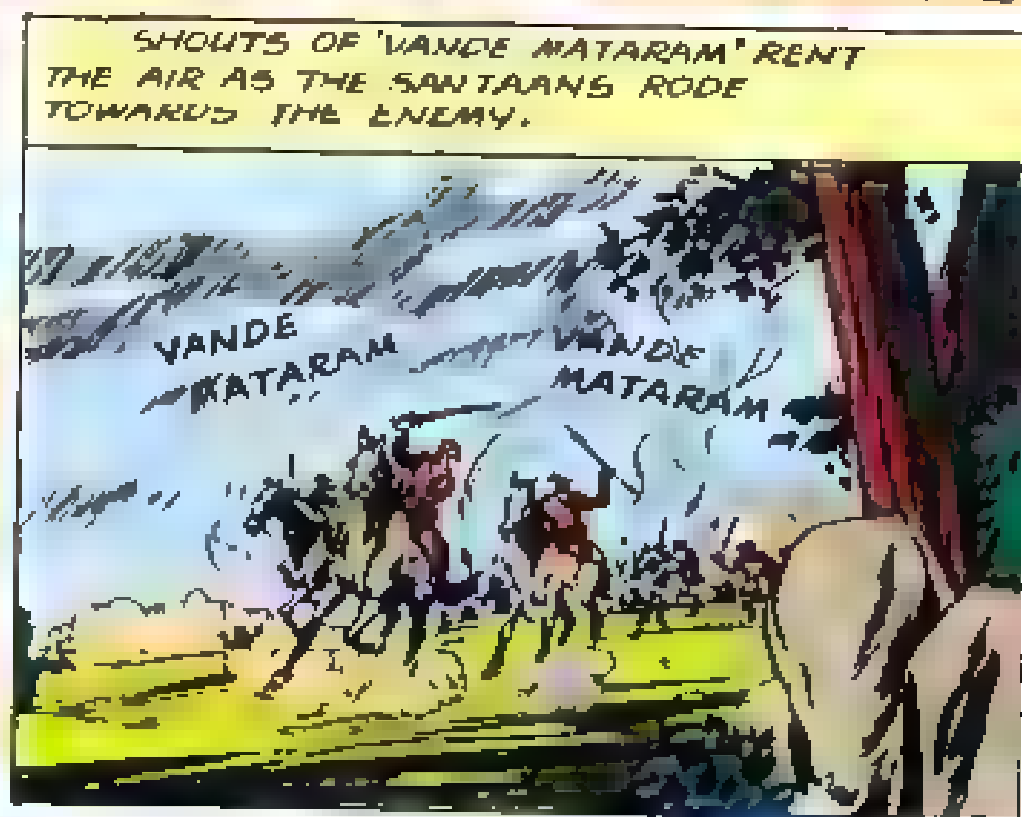


THE CANNONS TOOK A HEAVY TOLL.

SATYANANDA!
I APPOINT YOU
COMMANDER OF
THE FORCES. GO,
GET THE CANNONS
OF THE BRITISH.



SHANTI WAS BY THE
SIDE OF HER BELOVED
THAT DAY EVEN IN BATTLE.



THE SANTAANS WERE TRAPPED.

BHAVANANDA! NOT
A SINGLE MAN CAN
ESCAPE ALIVE NOW,
UNLESS WE THINK
FAST

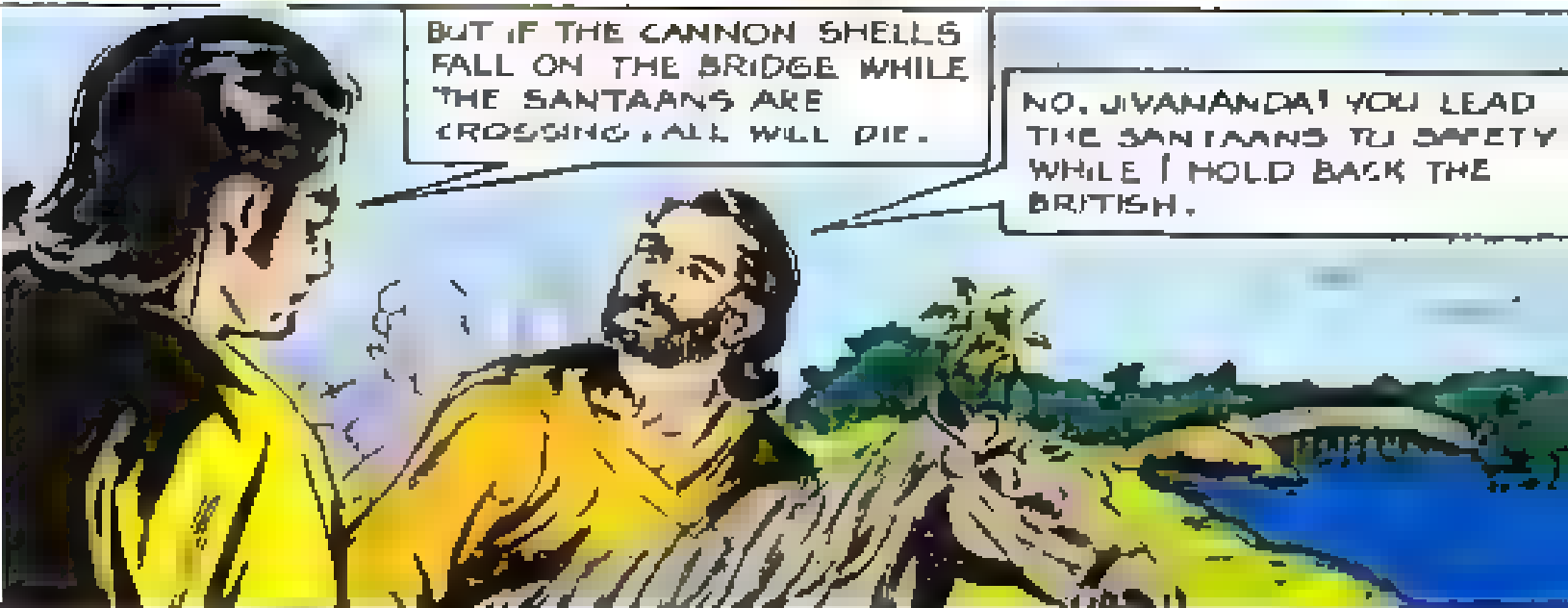
WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?

THERE IS ONLY ONE
WAY OUT—ACROSS
THE BRIDGE ON
THE RIVER AJAY.



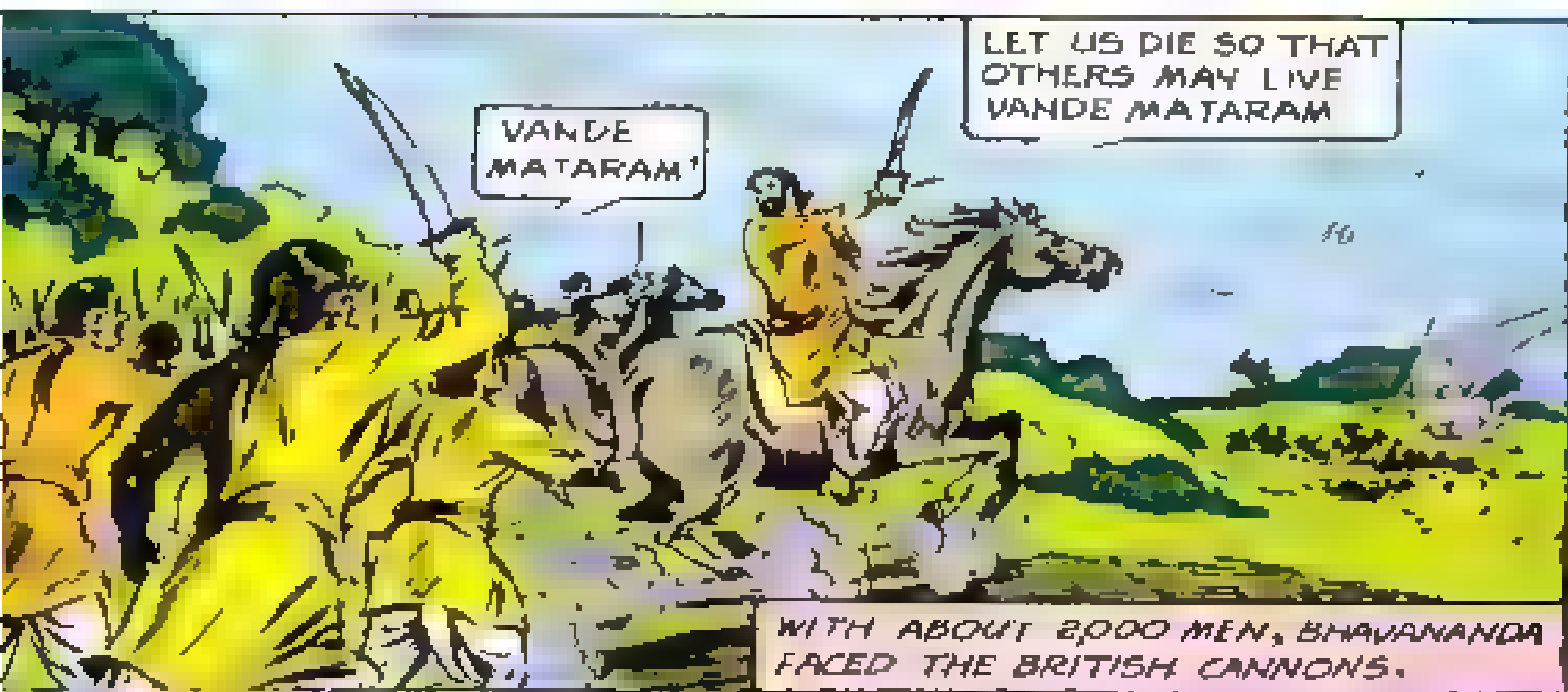
BUT IF THE CANNON SHELLS
FALL ON THE BRIDGE WHILE
THE SANTAANS ARE
CROSSING, ALL WILL DIE.

NO, JIVANANDA! YOU LEAD
THE SANTAANS TO SAFETY
WHILE I HOLD BACK THE
BRITISH.



VANDE
MATARAM!

LET US DIE SO THAT
OTHERS MAY LIVE
VANDE MATARAM



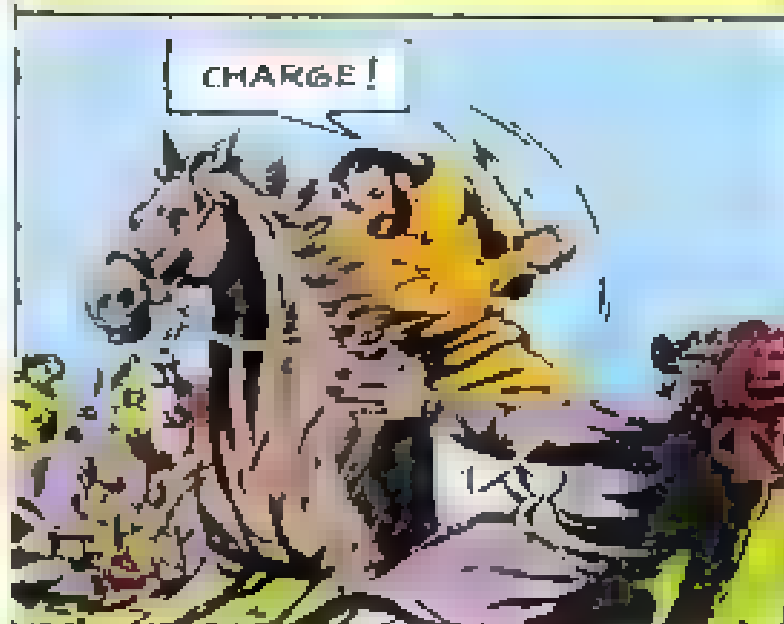
WITH ABOUT 2000 MEN, BHAVANANDA
FACED THE BRITISH CANNONS.

AS JIVANANDA AND THE SANTANS
RODE TO SAFETY :



LET NONE ESCAPE
FOLLOW THEM.TAKE
CANNONS WITH YOU.

BHAVANANDA ATTACKED CAPTAIN
THOMAS -



CHARGE!

IN A MATTER OF MINUTES CAPTAIN
THOMAS WAS CAPTURED.



THEY TIED HIM AND RUSHED TO
THE HELP OF JIVANANDA .



WHO WAS HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME BECAUSE OF THE CANNONS



THE SHELLS STARTED FALLING
ON THE BRIDGE ON WHICH THE
SANTANS HAD GATHERED.

BHAVANANDA COULD NOT BEAR
TO SEE THE DESTRUCTION.

COME, JIVANANDA,
LET US CAPTURE
THE CANNONS.



INSPIRED BY THE COURAGE OF
BHAVANANDA AND JIVANANDA, MORE
SANTAANS RUSHED FORWARD ON
THE SUICIDAL MISSION



SOON ONE OF THE CANNONS WAS
CAPTURED.

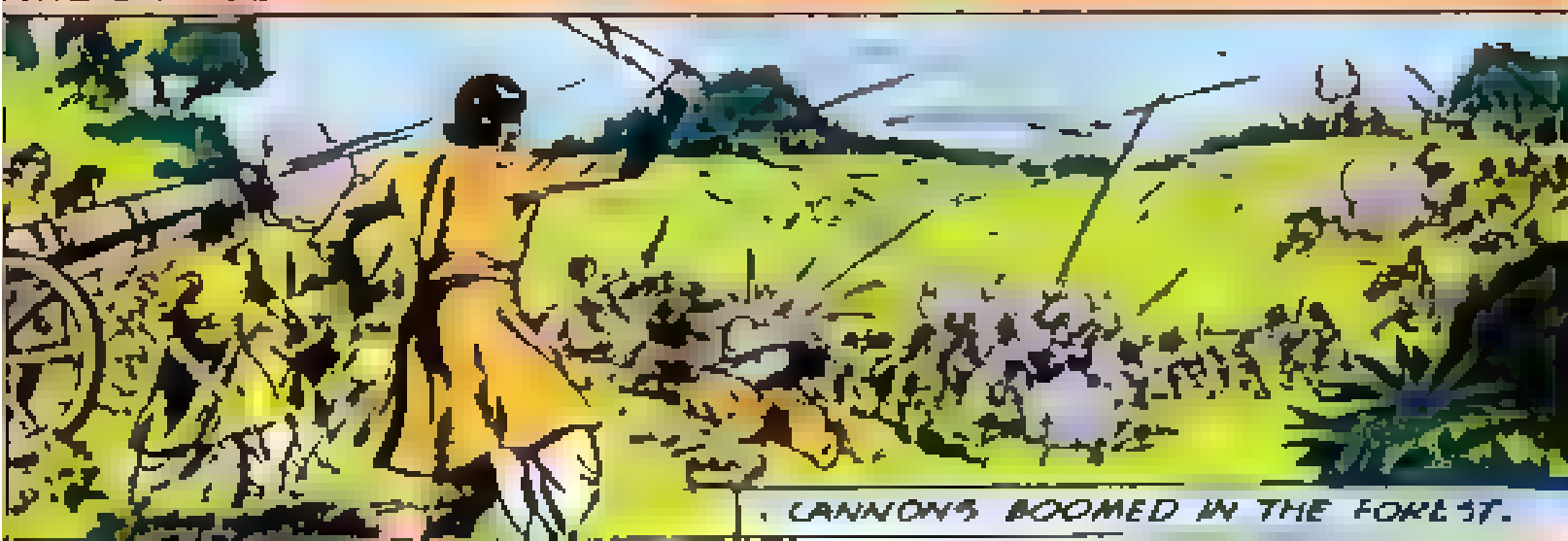
TURN THE
CANNON ON
THE
BRITISH.



THE CANNON NOW RAINED SHELLS
ON THE BRITISH ARMY



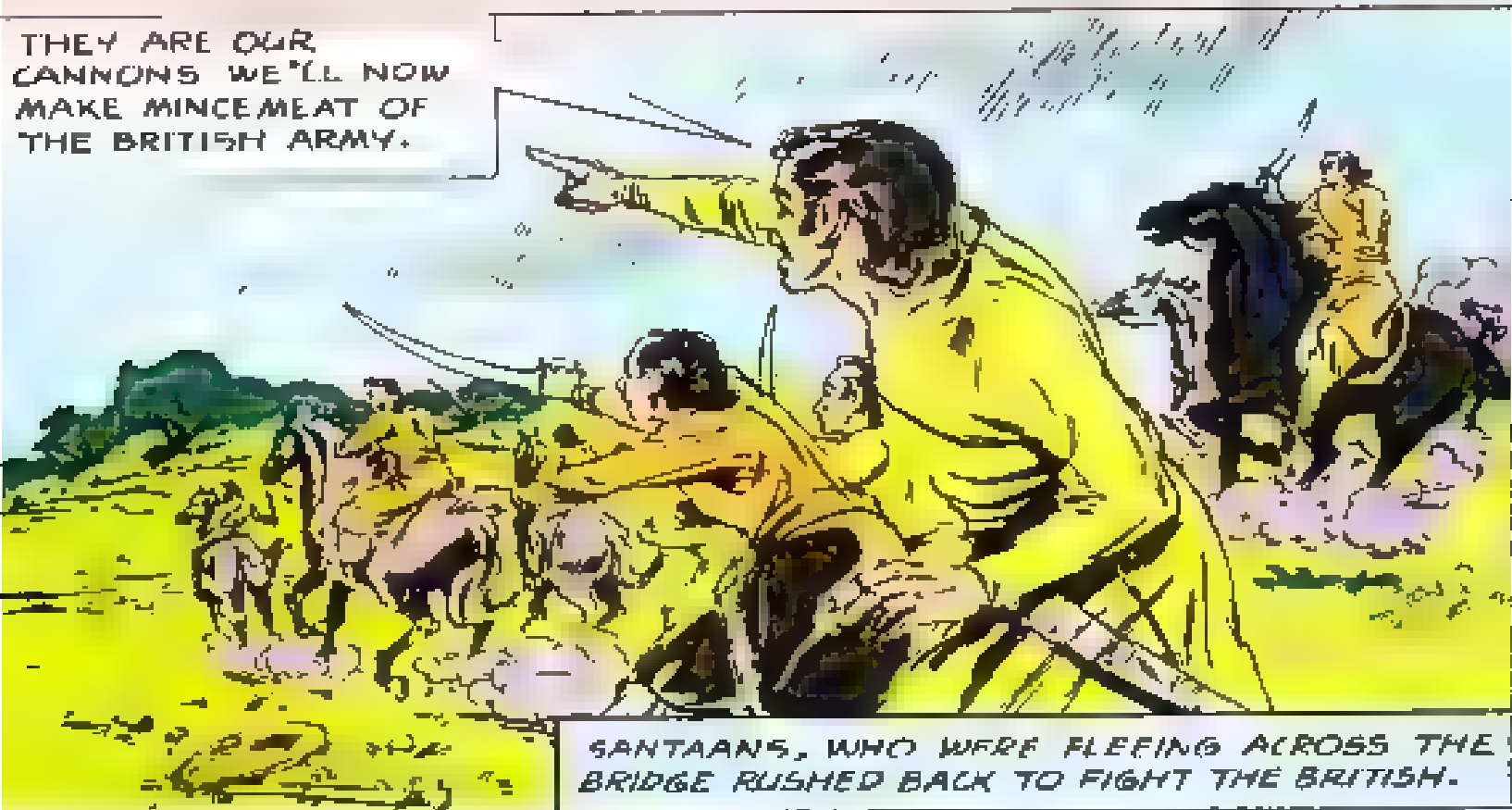
THE BRITISH ARMY HAD MANY CANNONS. THE SANTAANS HAD ONLY ONE
THE BATTLE WAS STILL UNEVEN. JUST THEN..



CANNONS BOOMED IN THE FOREST.

MAHENDRA HAD BROUGHT SEVENTEEN CANNONS FROM PADACH-HNO

THEY ARE OUR
CANNONS WE'LL NOW
MAKE MINCEMEAT OF
THE BRITISH ARMY.



SANTAANS, WHO WERE FLEEING ACROSS THE
BRIDGE RUSHED BACK TO FIGHT THE BRITISH.

THE TIDE OF THE BATTLE HAD TURNED. THE NATIVES IN THE BRITISH
ARMY RAN HELTER-SKELTER.



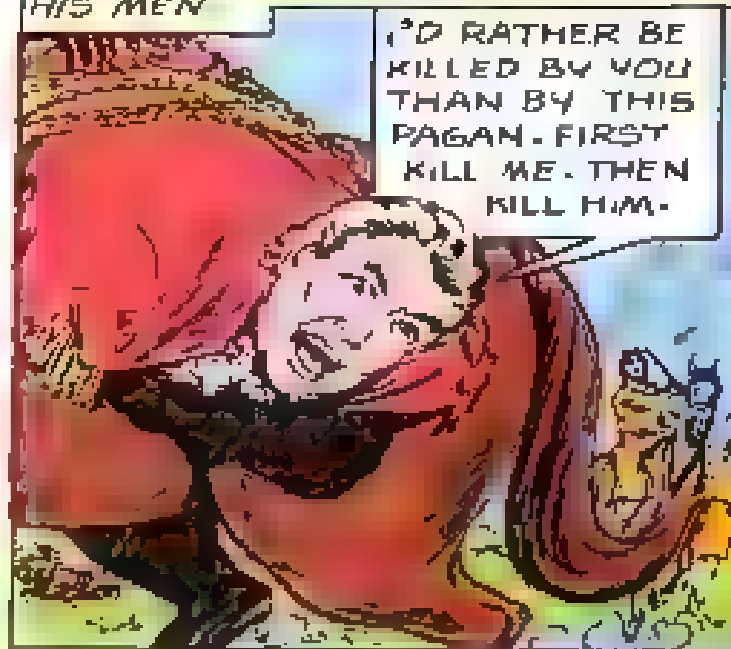
THE SANTAANS SPARED NONE.

ABOUT FORTY ENGLISH SOLDIERS SURROUNDED THEM. BHAVANANDA SUDDENLY TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO CAPT. THOMAS WHO WAS A PRISONER.

LET ME KILL HIM!



CAPT THOMAS APPEALED TO HIS MEN



I'D RATHER BE KILLED BY YOU THAN BY THIS PAGAN. FIRST KILL ME. THEN KILL HIM.

A BRITISH SOLDIER'S BULLET HIT CAPT. THOMAS.



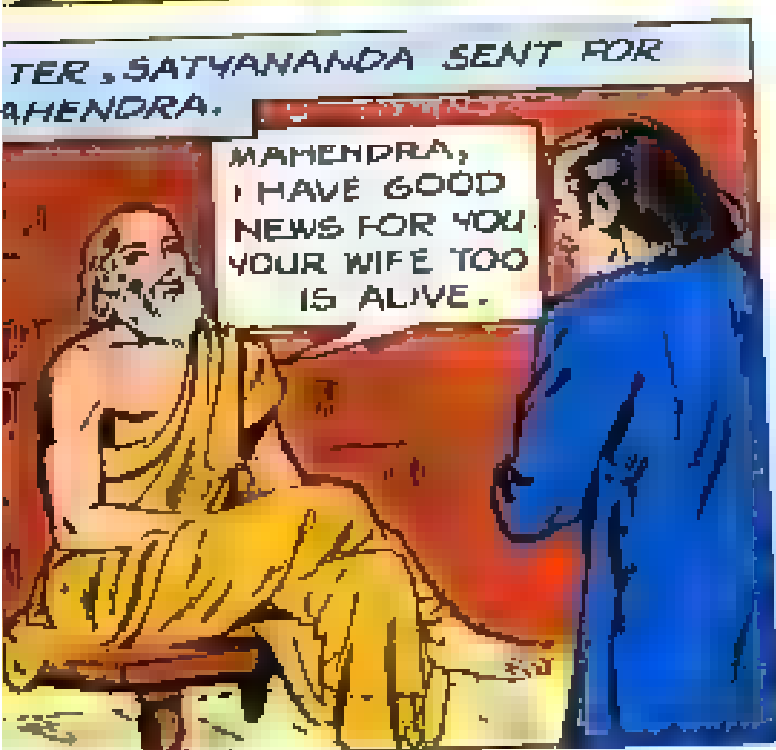
THEN THEY TURNED THEIR WRATH ON BHAVANANDA.



BHAVANANDA FELL DEAD.

I DIE FOR MY MOTHER. VANDE MATARAM.





IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE
WE FINALLY CRUSH THEM. I
FREE YOU FROM YOUR VOW.



NAVINANDU DID NOT HAVE TO GO AS FAR AS
THE CITY TO BRING KALYANI!

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING,
WOMAN?

I AM A POOR
BEGGAR. DON'T
STOP ME



HA, HA! A WOMAN
LIKE YOU DOES
NOT HAVE TO GO
BEGGING.



TAKE
THAT!



I HAVE SAVED YOU.
DO YOU LIKE ME?

HE WILL
HARM ME
I MUST RUN.

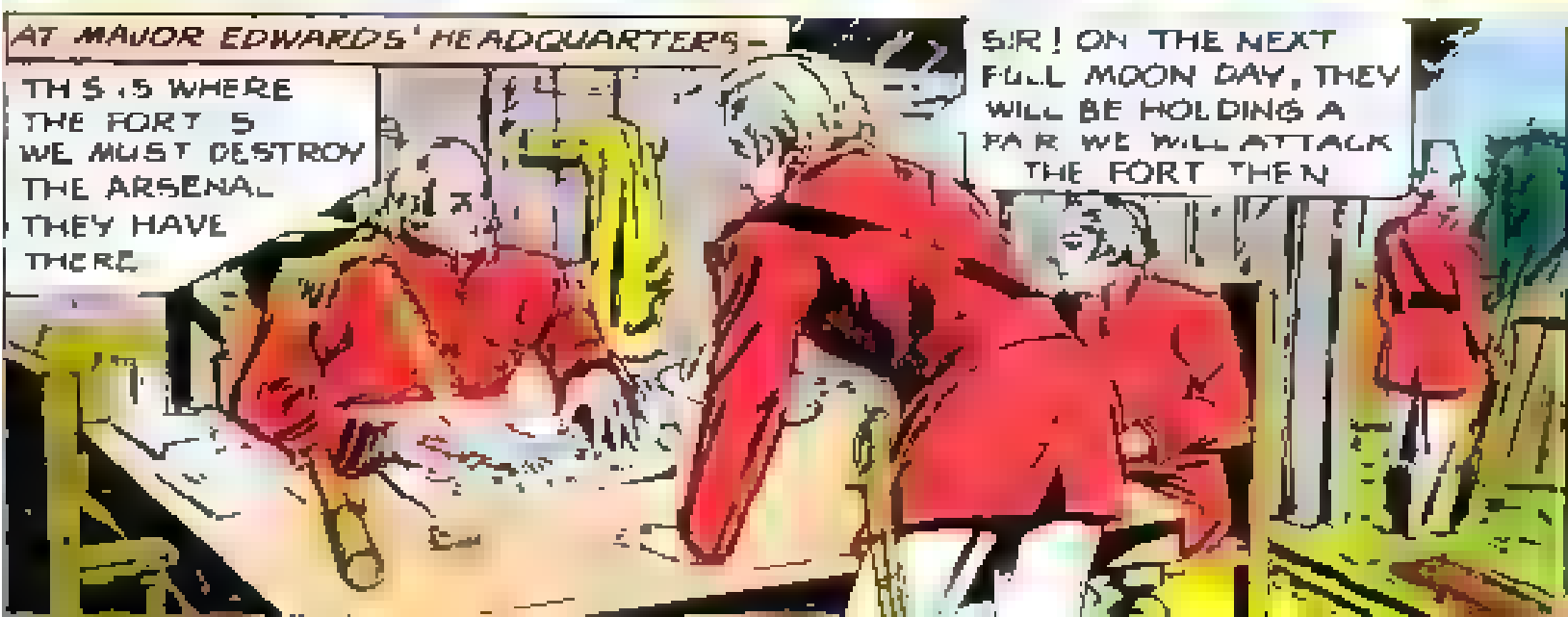


LEAVE ME
ALONE





MONTHS LATER, A LARGE ARMY WAS SENT FROM CALCUTTA UNDER MAJOR EDWARDS TO CRUSH THE SANTAN UPRISING.



THE RUMOURS SPREAD BY BRITISH
SPIES REACHED MAHENDRA'S EARS
AT PADACHIHNO

STOP THE PARADE!
GET READY TO
MARCH TO THE FAIR.



MEANWHILE, NAVINANANDA PLANNED
A VISIT TO THE BRITISH CAMP.

WAIT HERE!
I'LL GET THE
INFORMATION

SHANTI, TAKE
CARE



ON THE FULL MOON DAY, THOUSANDS
OF SANTAANS CONVERGED AT
THE FAIR



NAVINANANDA NOW DRESSED
AS A BEGGAR WOMAN, ENTERED THE
BRITISH CAMP.

GIVE ME
ALMS.

HA, HA! NO ALMS
FOR YOU, PRETTY
ONE! SING AND
DANCE FOR US.
I'LL TAKE YOU TO
OUR MAJOR



MAJOR EDWARDS WAS PLEASED.

YOU SING WELL HERE'S A RUPEE BUT IF YOU CAN GO AND FIND OUT HOW MANY GUARDS THEY HAVE AT THE FORT, I'LL GIVE YOU A HUNDRED

YOU PROMISE!

THE TARGET IS THE FORT. I MUST LET THEM KNOW.

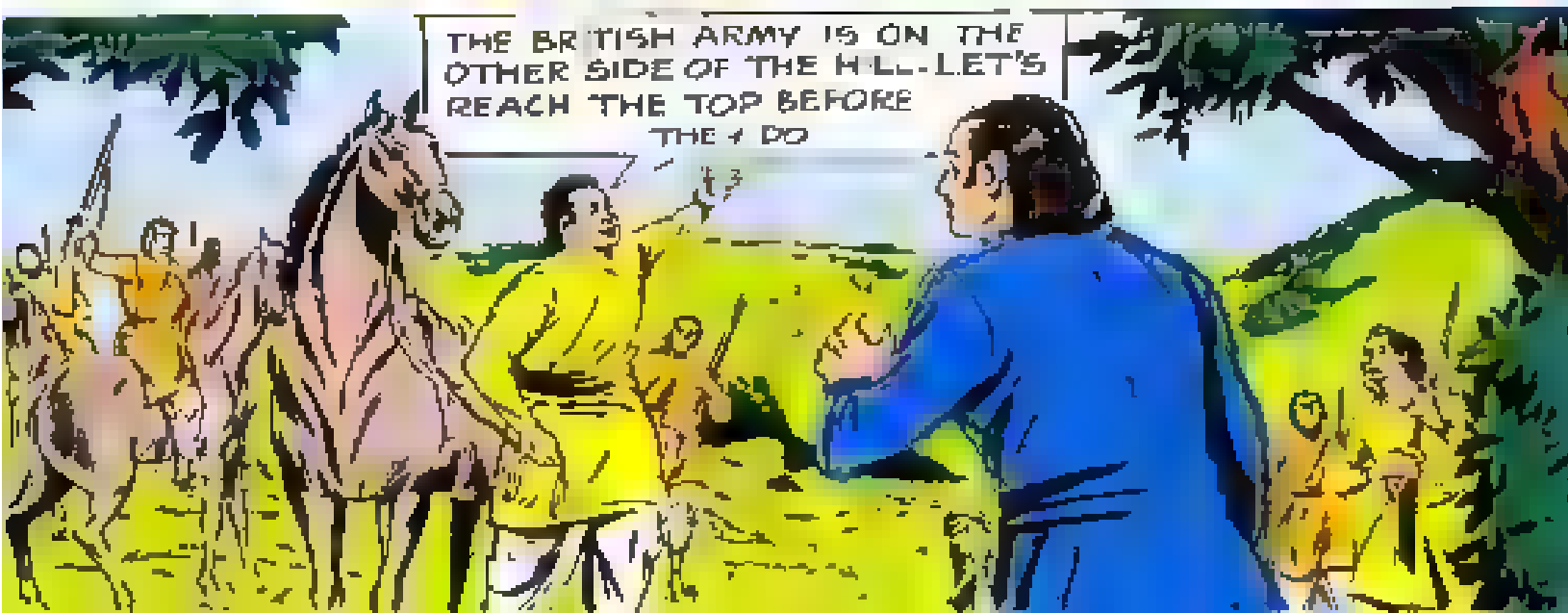
BACK IN THE MANGO GROVE, SHANTI GAVE THE INFORMATION SHE HAD GATHERED TO JIVANANDA.

GO AND INFORM GURUJI. I WILL RUSH TO MAHENDRA.

MAHENDRA'S ARMY HAD PAUSED AT THE FOOT OF A HILL. MAHENDRA SAW A FIGURE HIDING TOWARDS THEM.



THE BRITISH ARMY IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL. LET'S REACH THE TOP BEFORE THEY DO



IT WAS TOO LATE BY THEN



THE BRITISH CANNONS WERE THERE BEFORE THEM

THEY BEGAN SPITTING FIRE AND SHELLS UPON THE SANTANS.



JIVANANDA HAS FALLEN.

LET'S DE WITH HIM



MEANWHILE SATYANANDA AND NAVINANANDA CAME WITH THE ARMY THAT HAD GATHERED AT THE FAIR.

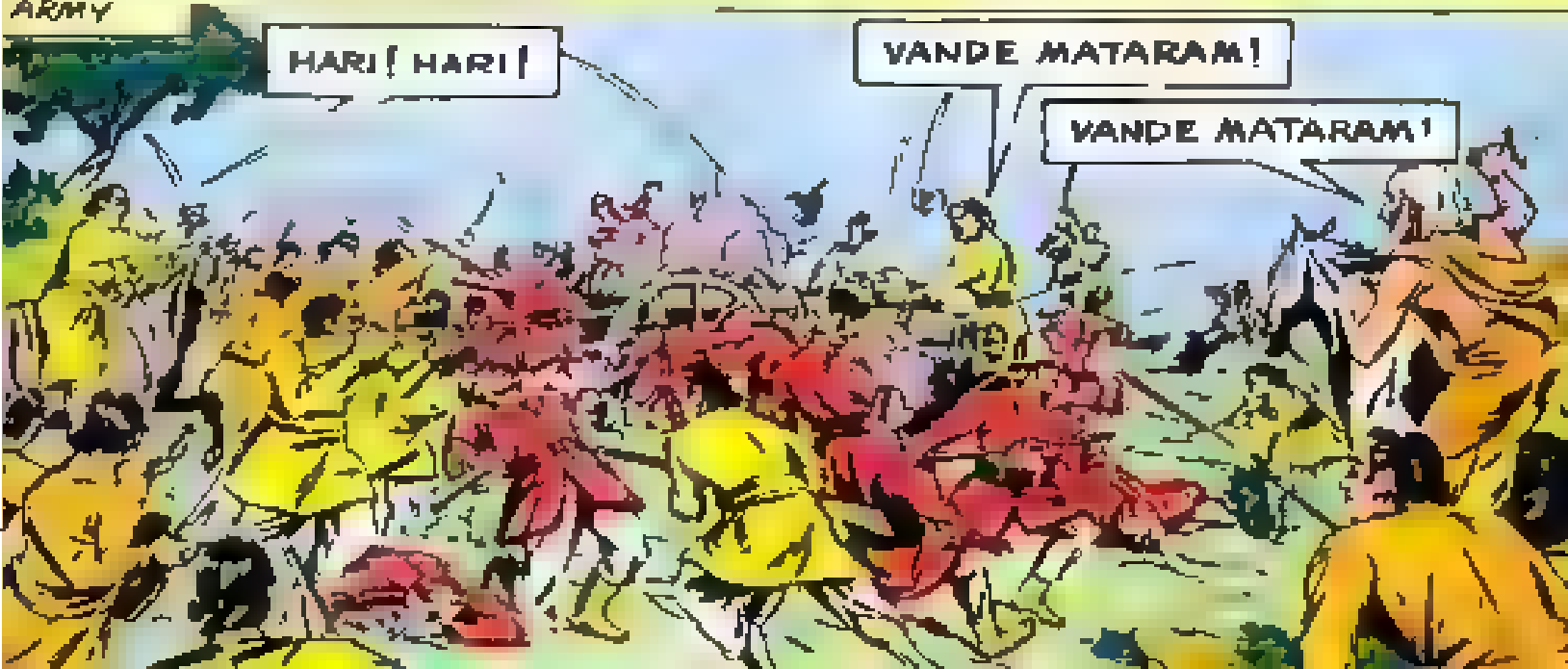


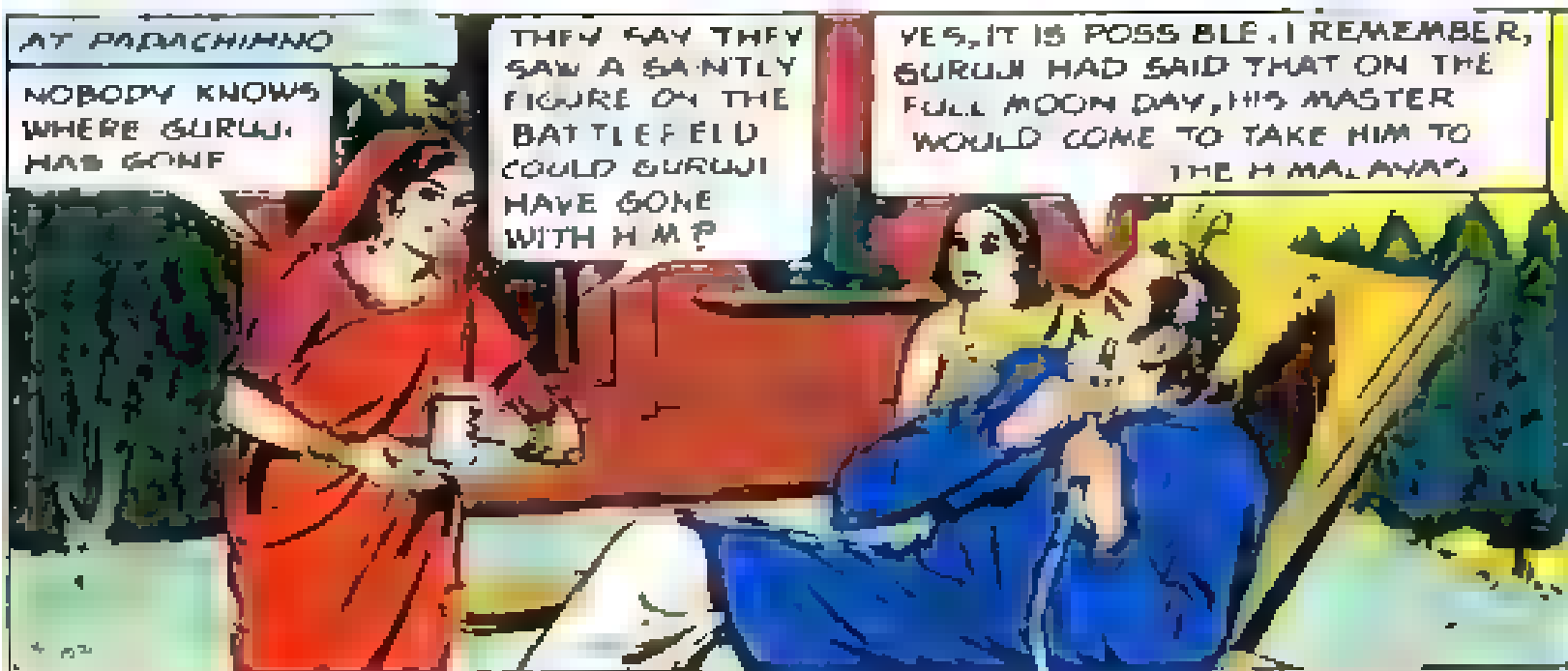
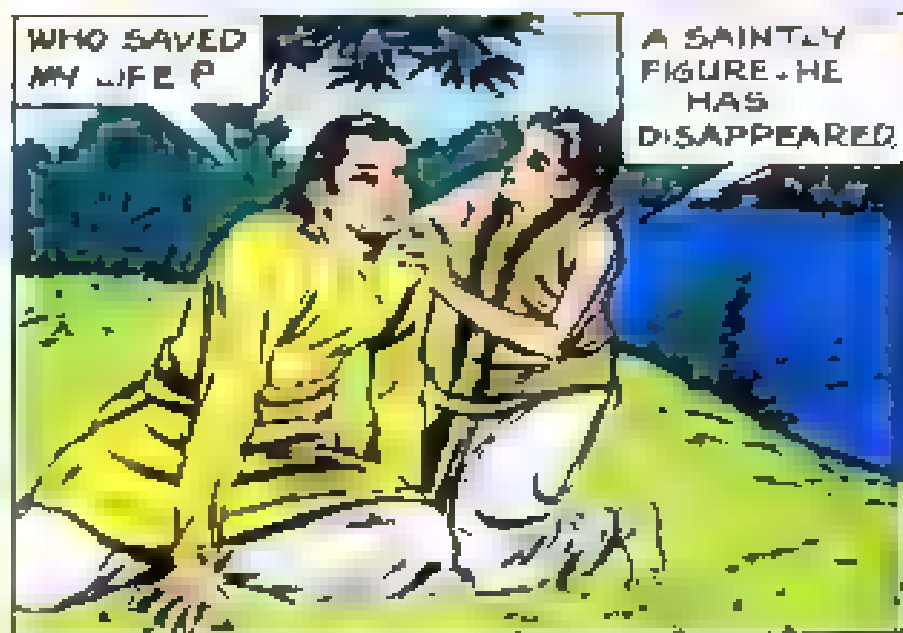
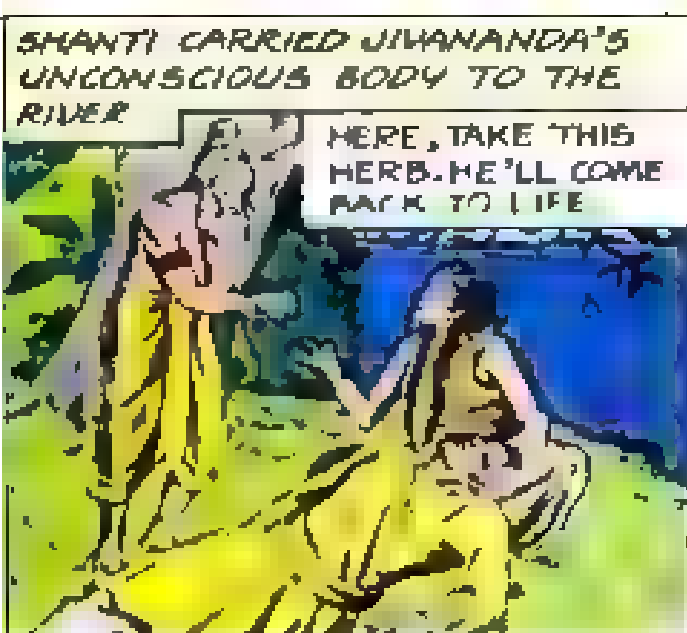
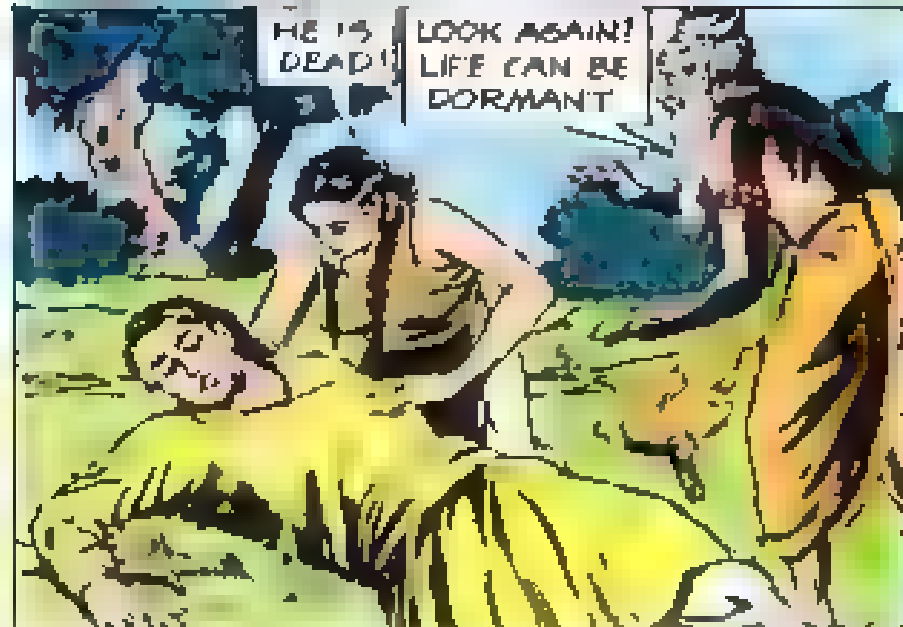
THEY SWEEP DOWN ON THE BRITISH FROM ABOVE THE RIDGE THE BRITISH FORCES WERE CRUSHED BETWEEN MAHENDRA'S ARMY AND SATYANANDA'S ARMY

HARI! HARI!

VANDE MATARAM!

VANDE MATARAM!

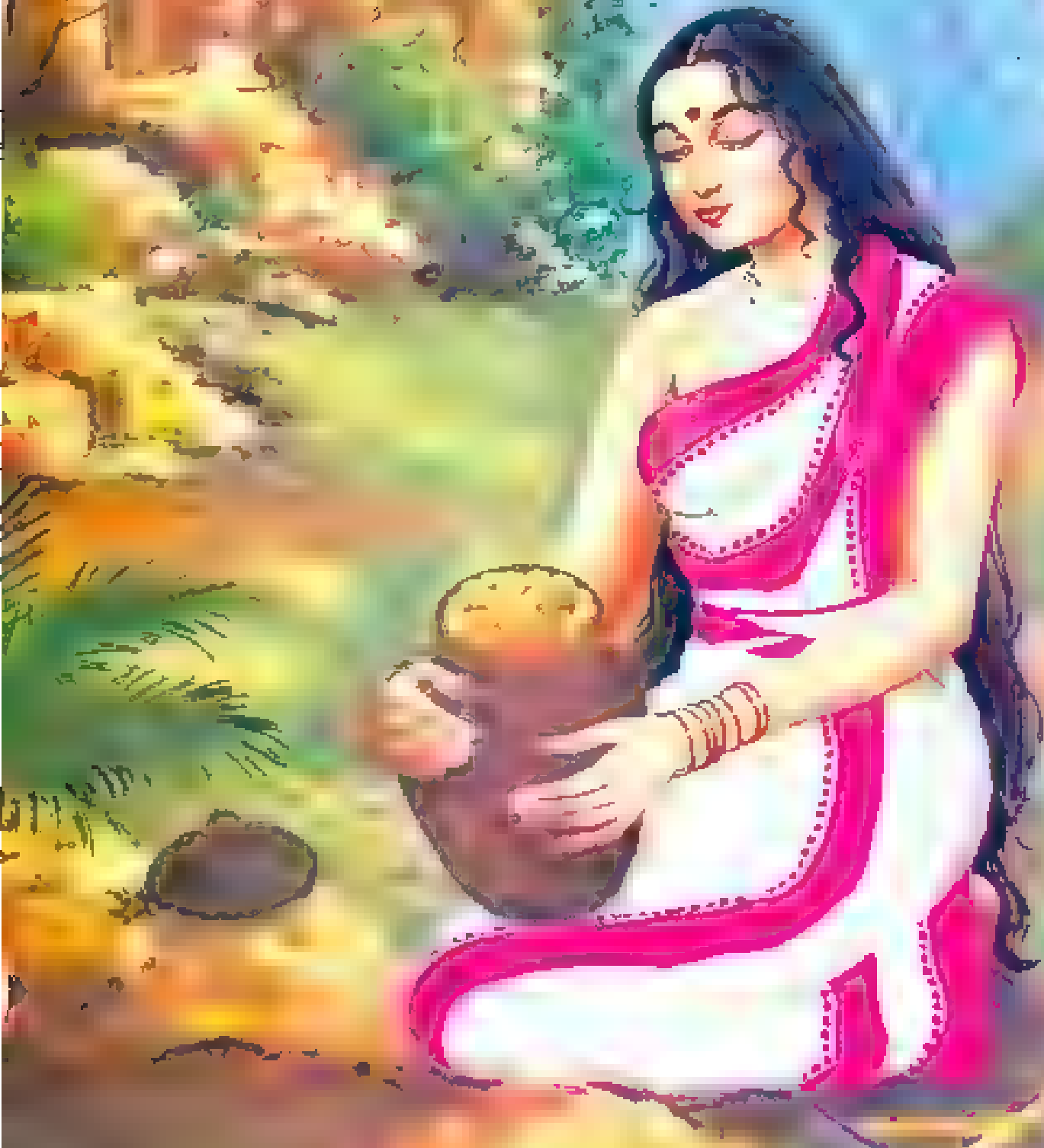




NOTHING WAS LEFT OF ANANDA MATH THOSE WHO HAD SURVIVED WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS BUT THE SPARK REMAINED, AND THE 'SLOKAN-VANDE MATARAM'



Devi Choudhurani





Illustrated Classics From India

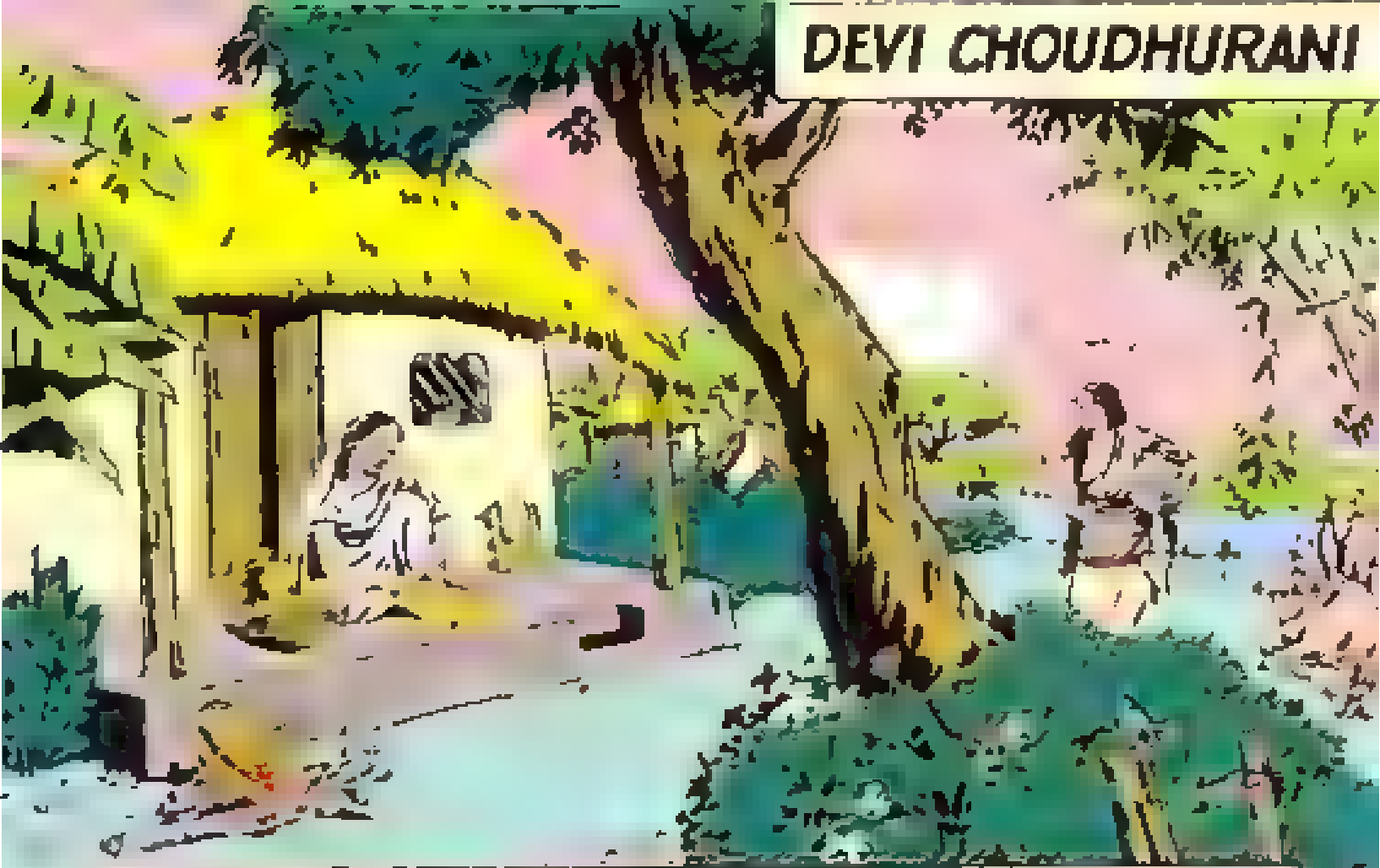
Dev Choudhurani

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (1838-1894) is considered to be one of the greatest writers in the world of Bengali literature. His *Dev Choudhurani* is an enthralling, adventurous and romantic story.

Before Bankim Chandra, writers in India had depended upon Sanskrit literature for plots. Bankim Chandra was the first to realise that history could be a rich source of material. His historical fiction became popular at once and he came to be referred to as the Walter Scott of India. His novels, although originally written in Bengali, have been translated into many Indian languages.

Both *Dev Choudhurani* and her mentor Bhavani Pathak, are historical characters who figure in the report of Lieutenant Brannan, quoted by Hunter in his 'Statistical Account of Bengal'. There is no historical explanation of what converted the young, vulnerable Prafulla into the great *Dev Choudhurani* in the first place, and what made her give it up later. However, Bankim Chandra's fertile imagination has provided answers to these puzzling questions in his novel, on which our tale is based.

Script: Debran. Mitra Illustrations: Souren Roy



IN LURGAPUR, A SMALL VILLAGE OF NORTH BENGAL, THERE LIVED A POOR BRAHMAN WIDOW WITH HER BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER, PRATULLA

NAME OF PRATULLA'S BEAUTY REACHED THE EARS OF HARABALLABH, THE ZAMINDAR OF BHUTNATH

SH. IS THE GIRL FOR MY SON. HE SURE SHE CERTAINLY IS BUT SHE IS A HINDU BRAHMAN GIRL AND THEY ARE TAKEN TO COME BY



AND HE WENT TO ME ASKING A BRIDE

WENT TO MARRY MY ONLY CHILD BRAJESHWAR TO YOUR DAUGHTER

I AM HONOURED SIR

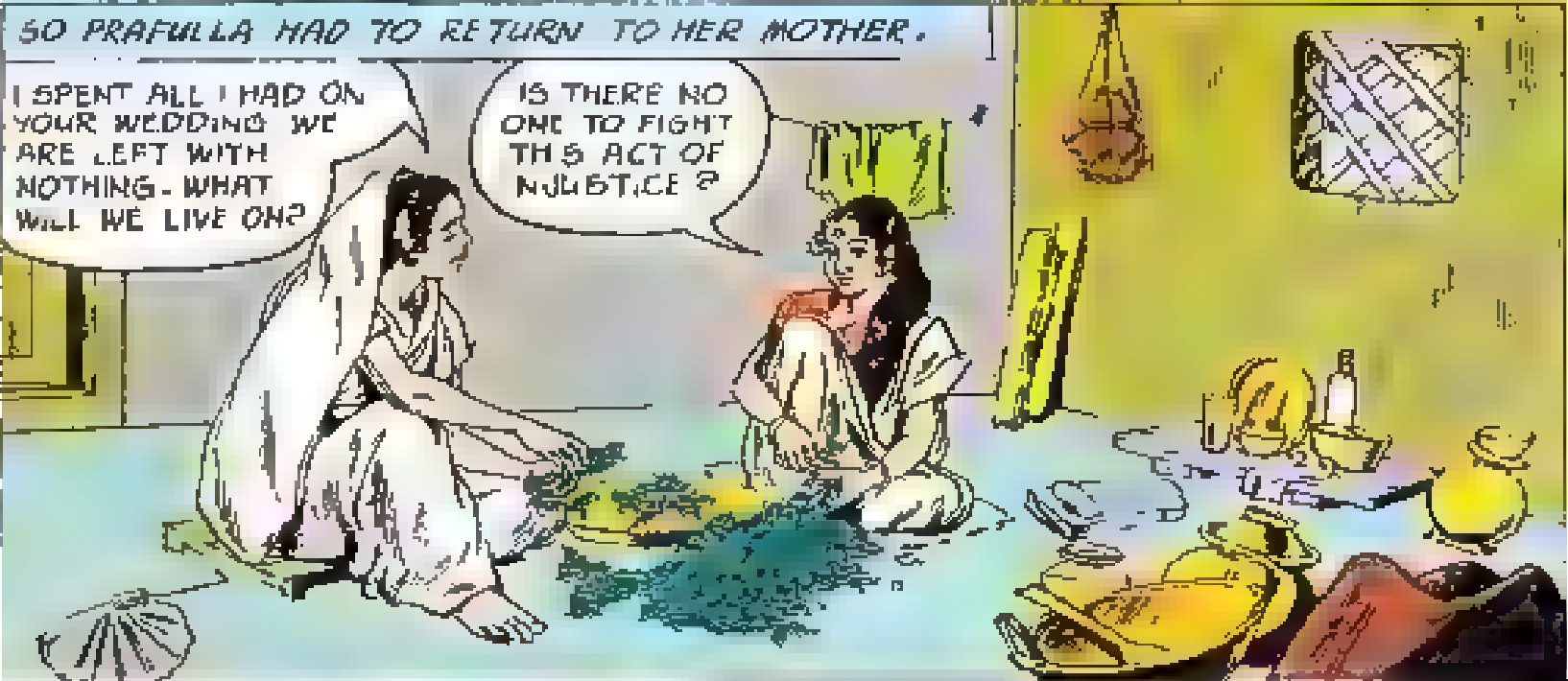




SO PRAFULLA HAD TO RETURN TO HER MOTHER.

I SPENT ALL I HAD ON YOUR WEDDING WE ARE LEFT WITH NOTHING. WHAT WILL WE LIVE ON?

IS THERE NO ONE TO FIGHT THIS ACT OF INJUSTICE?



THERE IS ONE, MY DAUGHTER! BHAYANI PATHAK.

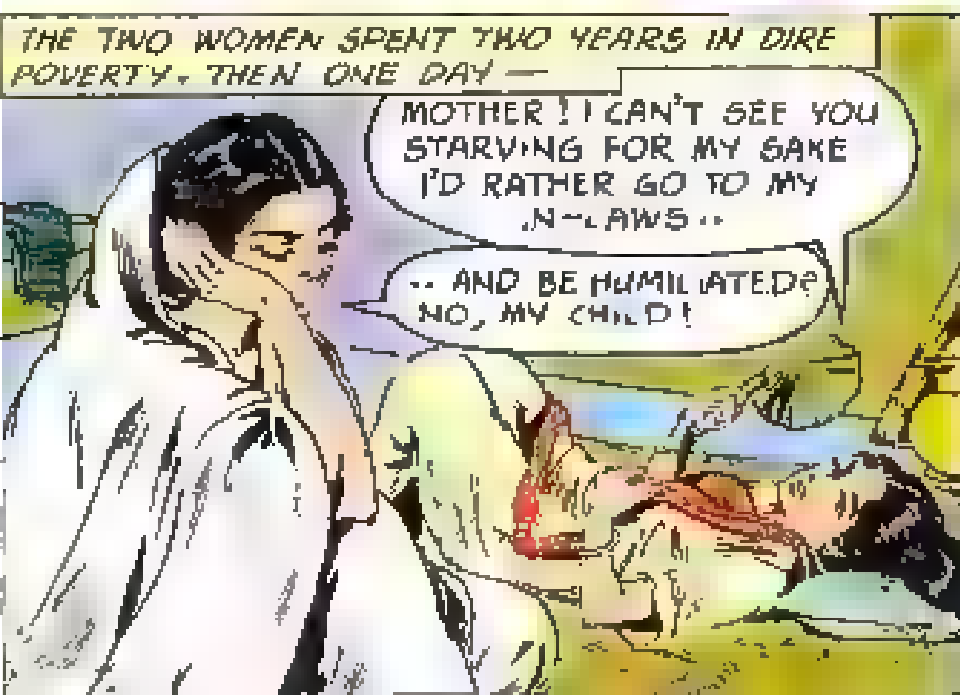
THAT DACOIT? NO, MOTHER. LET'S TAKE TO SPINNING FOR A LIVELIHOOD.



THE TWO WOMEN SPENT TWO YEARS IN DIRE POVERTY. THEN ONE DAY —

MOTHER! I CAN'T SEE YOU STARVING FOR MY SAKE I'D RATHER GO TO MY N-LAWS ..

.. AND BE HUMILIATED? NO, MY CHILD!



WHY NOT? THEY ARE OBLIGED TO MAINTAIN ME.



PRAFULLA MADE HER WAY TO HARABALLABH'S HOUSE AND STOOD BEFORE HER MOTHER-IN-LAW.

MOTHER I HAVE COME TO STAY WITH YOU.

SHE IS SO BEAUTIFUL, AND LOOKS INNOCENT TOO. I WISH SHE COULD STAY HERE

WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU WITH US, MY CHILD! BUT I FEAR SOCIETY.

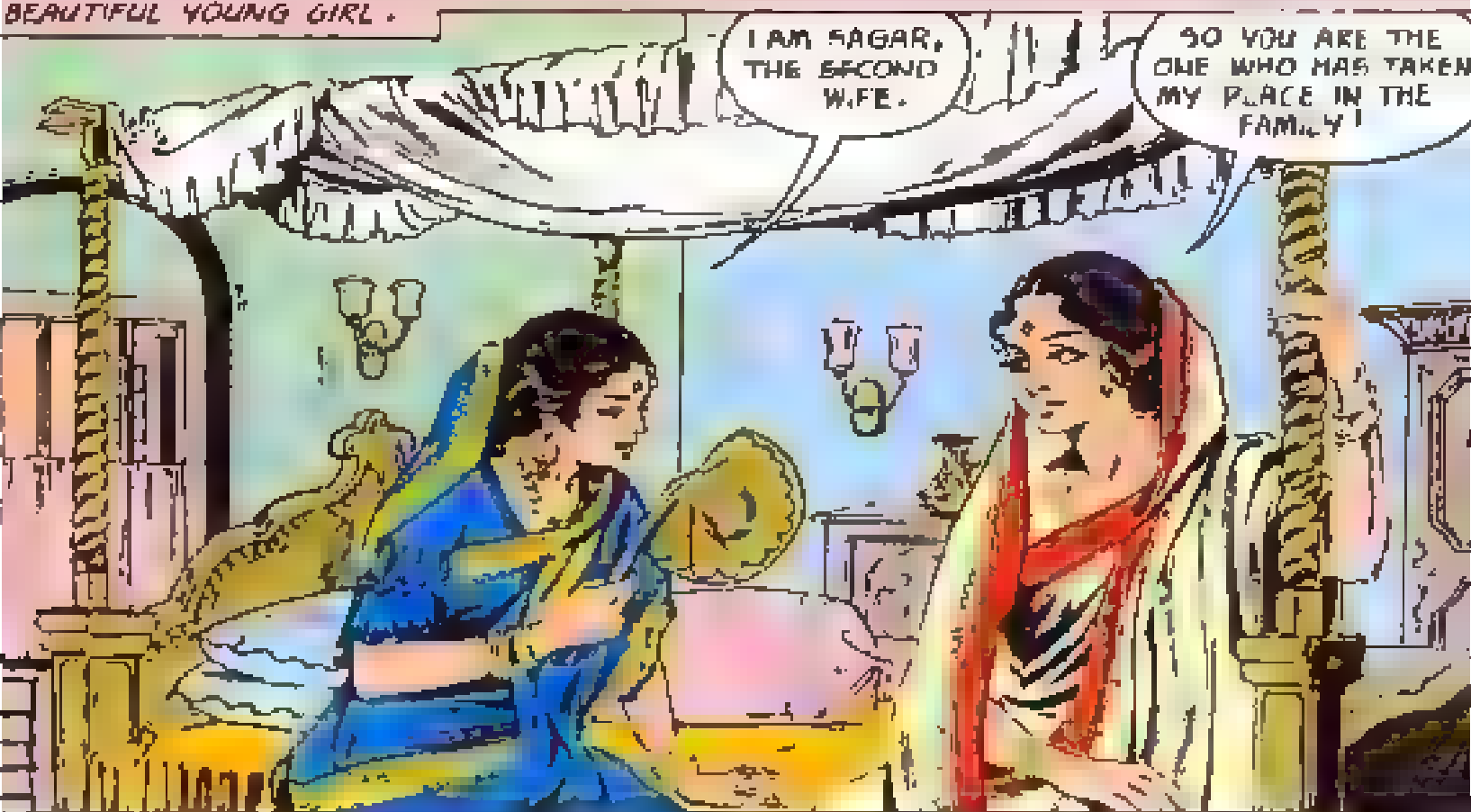
DOES A MOTHER SHUN HER CHILD FOR FEAR OF SOCIETY?

SHE'S RIGHT!

WAIT HERE, MY CHILD! I'LL SPEAK TO YOUR FATHER-IN-LAW.

WHO COULD SHE BE?

AS SOON AS HER MOTHER-IN-LAW LEFT, PRAFULLA WAS USHERED INTO A ROOM BY THE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRL.



I AM SAGAR,
THE SECOND
WIFE.

SO YOU ARE THE
ONE WHO HAS TAKEN
MY PLACE IN THE
FAMILY!

NOT I LIVE WITH MY
FATHER OUR HUSBAND
LIVES WITH
HIS THIRD WIFE,
NAYANTARA.

HOW UNFORTUNATE
HE IS! IN SPITE
OF HAVING A BEAUTI-
FUL WIFE LIKE
YOU...

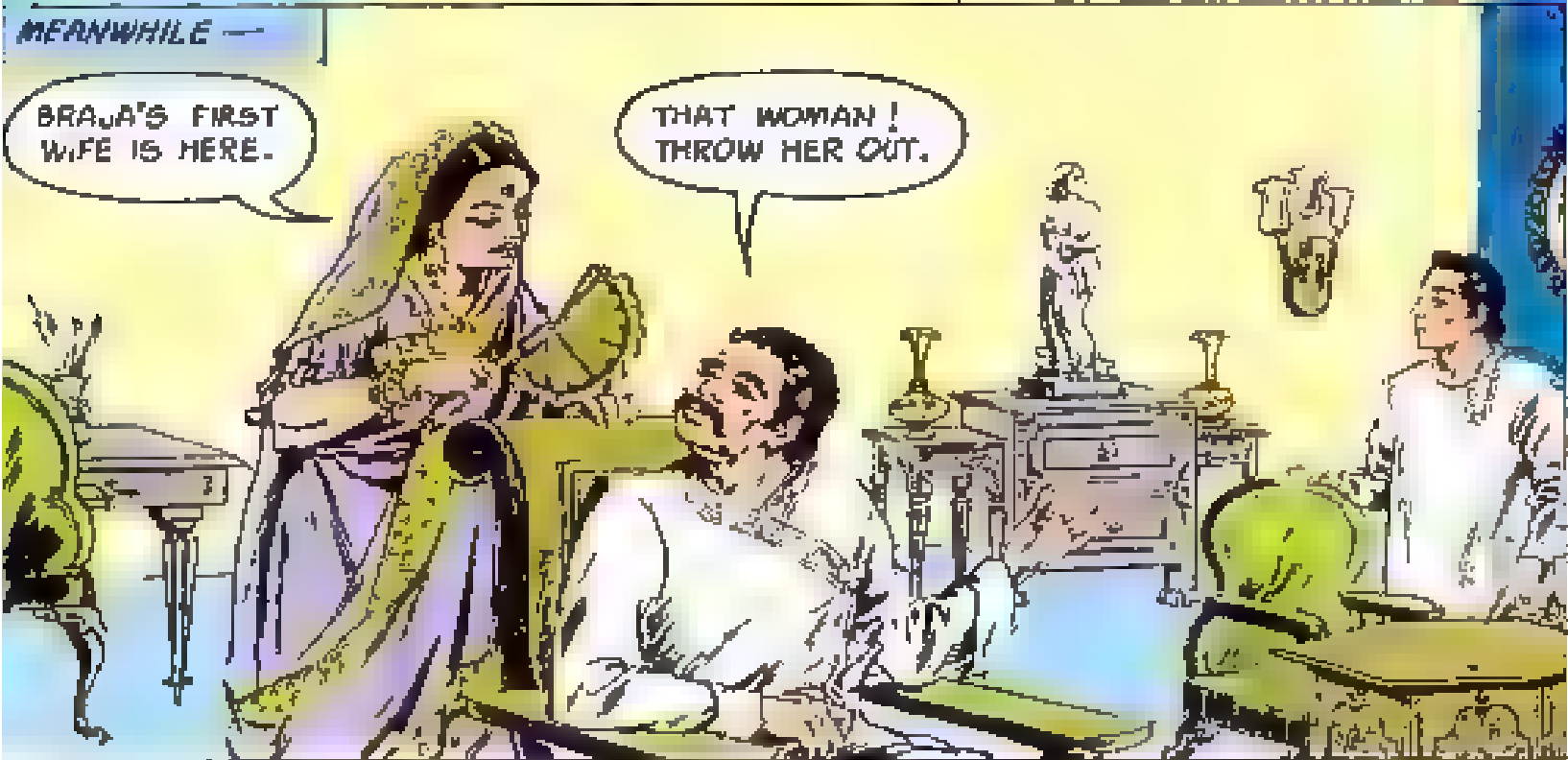
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
THERE IS NONE
PRETTIER THAN
YOU!



MEANWHILE —

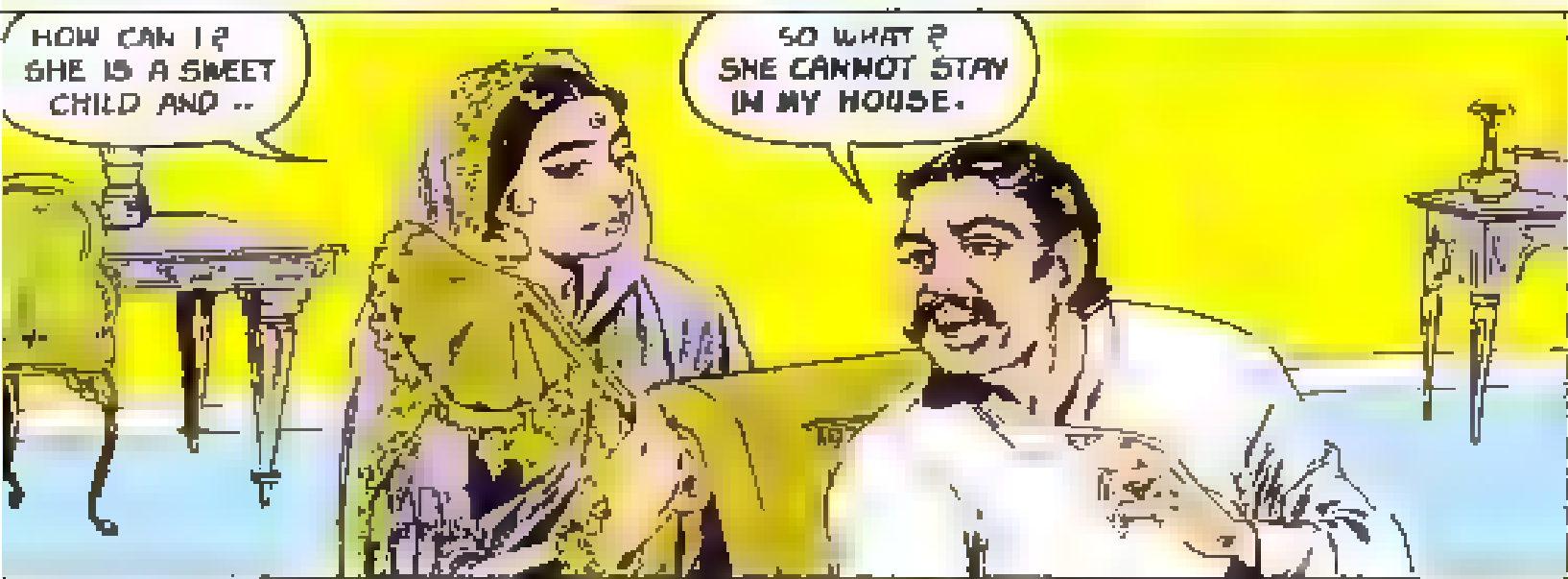
BRAJA'S FIRST
WIFE IS HERE.

THAT WOMAN!
THROW HER OUT.



HOW CAN I?
SHE IS A SWEET
CHILD AND --

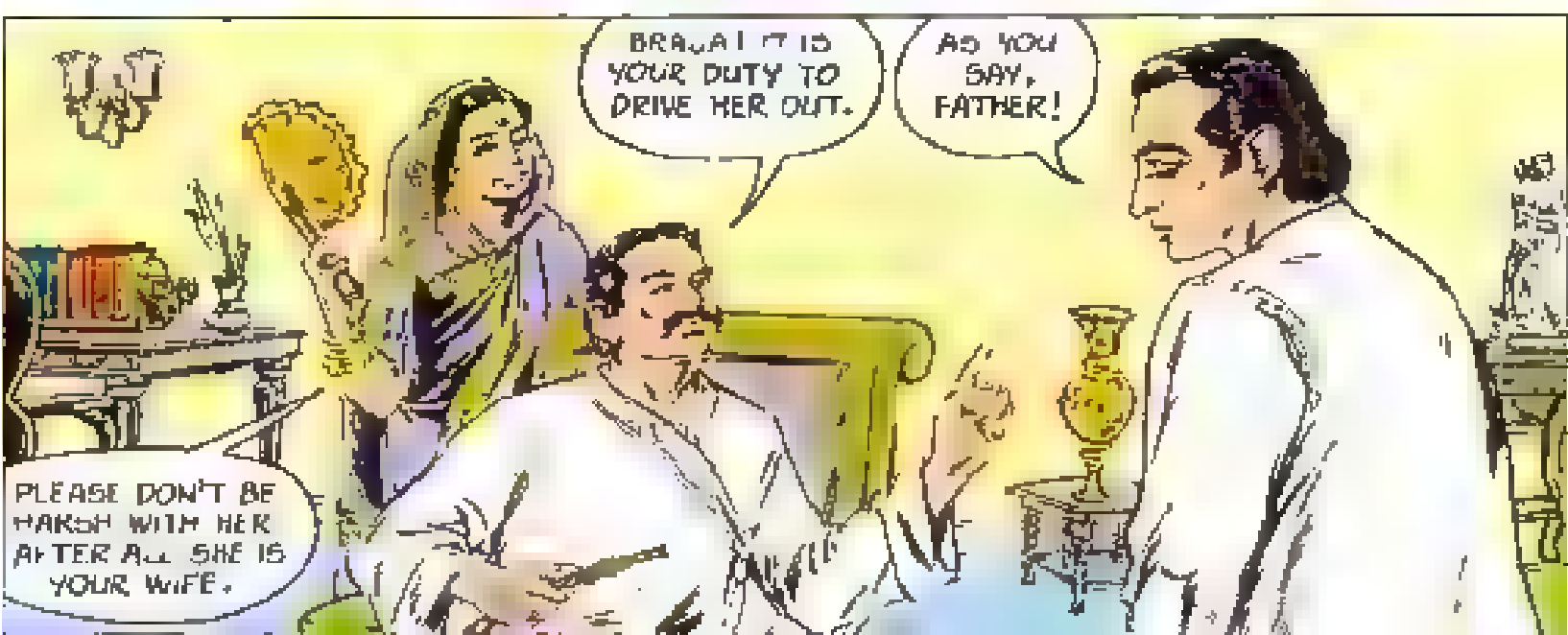
SO WHAT?
SHE CANNOT STAY
IN MY HOUSE.



BRAJA! IT IS
YOUR DUTY TO
DRIVE HER OUT.

AS YOU
SAY,
FATHER!

PLEASE DON'T BE
HARSH WITH HER
AFTER ALL SHE IS
YOUR WIFE.



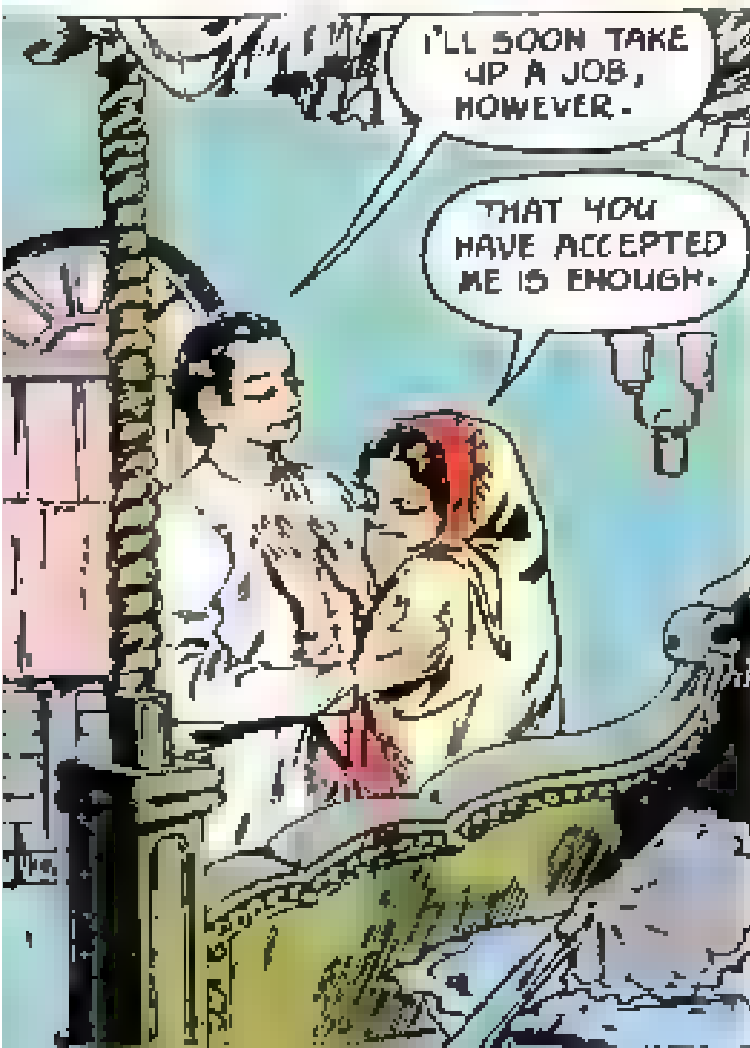
RAJESHWAR FOUND PRAFULLA IN THE ROOM WHERE SAGNIK HAD LEFT HER. SHE CAME FORWARD AND TOUCHED HIS FEET.

FORGIVE ME, PRAFULLA.
I AM HELPLESS. MY
FATHER DOES NOT WANT
YOU HERE AND I CANNOT
MAINTAIN YOU



I'LL SOON TAKE
UP A JOB,
HOWEVER.

THAT YOU
HAVE ACCEPTED
ME IS ENOUGH.



RAJESHWAR BROUGHT OUT HIS DIAMOND
RING AND GAVE IT TO HER.

SELL IT AND USE THE
MONEY TILL I AM IN
A POSITION TO
MAINTAIN YOU.

IT HAS YOUR NAME
ENGRAVED ON IT
I WON'T PART WITH
IT EVEN IF I HAVE
TO STARVE.



WHEN PRAFULLA RETURNED TO DURGAPUR, SHE FOUND HER MOTHER SERIOUSLY ILL



ONE DARK NIGHT, A FEW DAYS AFTER HER MOTHER'S DEATH, FOUR MEN BROKE INTO PRAFULLA'S HOUSE



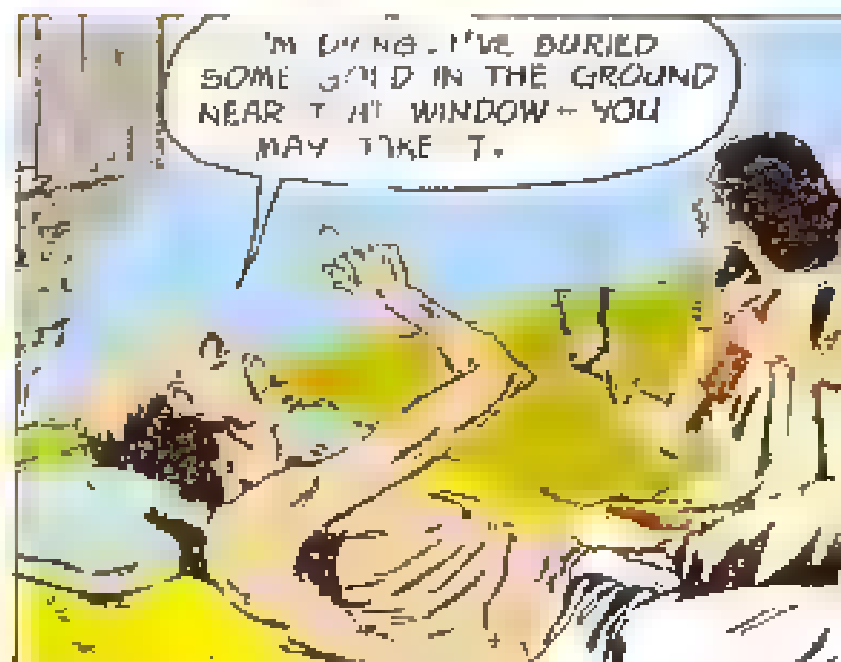
HE ZAMIN VU'S MEN CARRIED TRAFULLA THROUGH AN UNUSED JUNGLE PATH TO AVOID ANY
FACOUNTER WITH THE VU AGE FXX WHEN THEY WERE USED IN THE JUNGLE —



AS SHE WANDERED ABOUT IN THE FOREST, PRAFULLA CAME UPON THE RUINS OF A HOUSE.



PRAFULLA BROUGHT HIM THE WATER AND HE DRANK IT.



THE NEXT MORNING, THE OLD MAN DIED PRASULLA DUG THE GROUND AT THE SPOT HE HAD INDICATED



SHE BURIED THE DEAD BODY IN THE PIT FROM WHICH THE TREASURE HAD BEEN DUG. THEN SHE CARRIED THE PITCHER INSIDE AND HID IT IN A CORNER

I AM HUNGRY
I'D BETTER GO
AND BUY MY-
SELF SOME
FOOD.



EXIT IN THE FOREST AGAIN SHE MET A
PIOUS LOOKING BAHAMMA.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING
HERE, MOTHER? THIS
FOREST IS NO PLACE
FOR A LADY LIKE YOU

I HAVE RECENTLY
COME TO LIVE HERE
IS THERE A MARKET
NEAR BY

ALL THE WOMEN OF ALL



THE MARKET?
IT IS MILES AWAY
BUT ... WHO ELSE
STAYS WITH YOU?

WHY ALL THESE
QUESTIONS, SIR?
I WANT TO BUY
SOME FOOD - I'M
HUNGRY.



YOU MAY BUY
WHAT YOU NEED
FROM MY
COTTAGE.

THANK YOU,
SIR!

AT HIS COTTAGE, PRAFULLA TOOK THE
PROVISIONS AND GAVE HIM THE GOLD COIN
SHE HAD BROUGHT WITH HER.



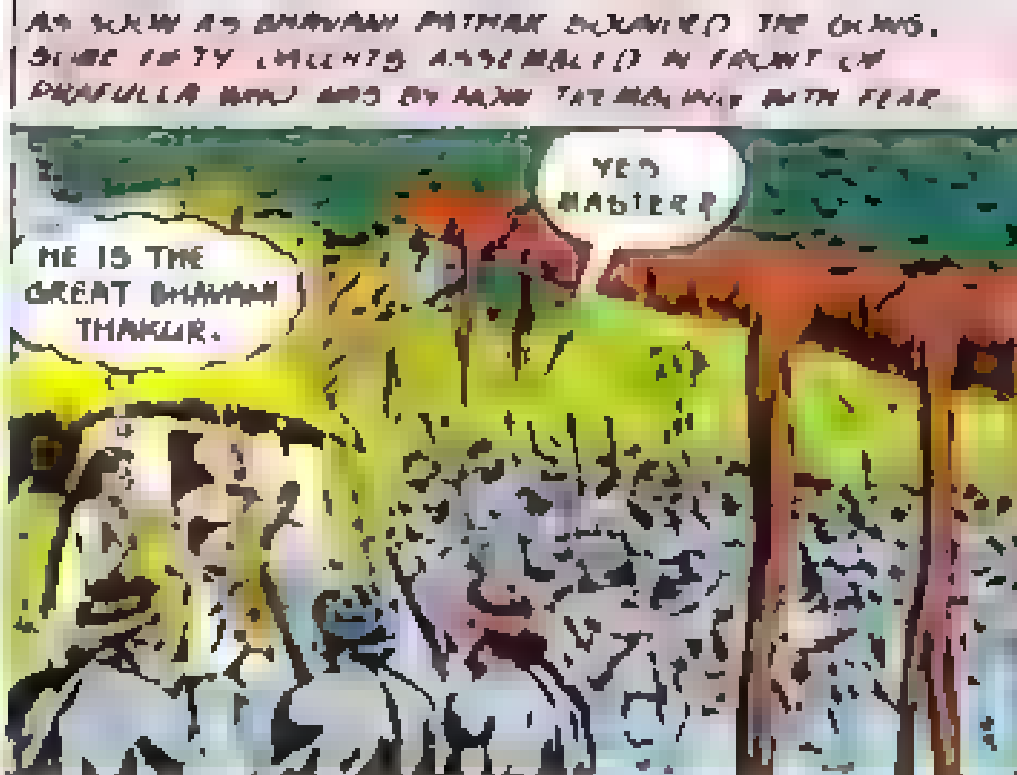
A GOLD COIN!
SORRY I DON'T
HAVE THE CHANGE
FOR IT

BUT I HAVE
ONLY SUCH
COINS



ONLY SUCH COINS!
WELL, SHOW ME
YOUR HOUSE. I'LL
COLLECT MY
PAYMENT LATER.

WHY DOES HE
WANT TO SEE MY
HOUSE? PERHAPS
HE WANTS TO ROB
ME OF MY COINS
NO I SHOULDN'T
SHOW IT TO
HIM



AS THEY WALKED TO HER COTTAGE, PRAFULLA TOLD HIM HER STORY BUT HID THE FACTS ABOUT HER MARRIAGE



NOW THAT YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS TREASURE, TELL ME WHAT TO DO WITH IT

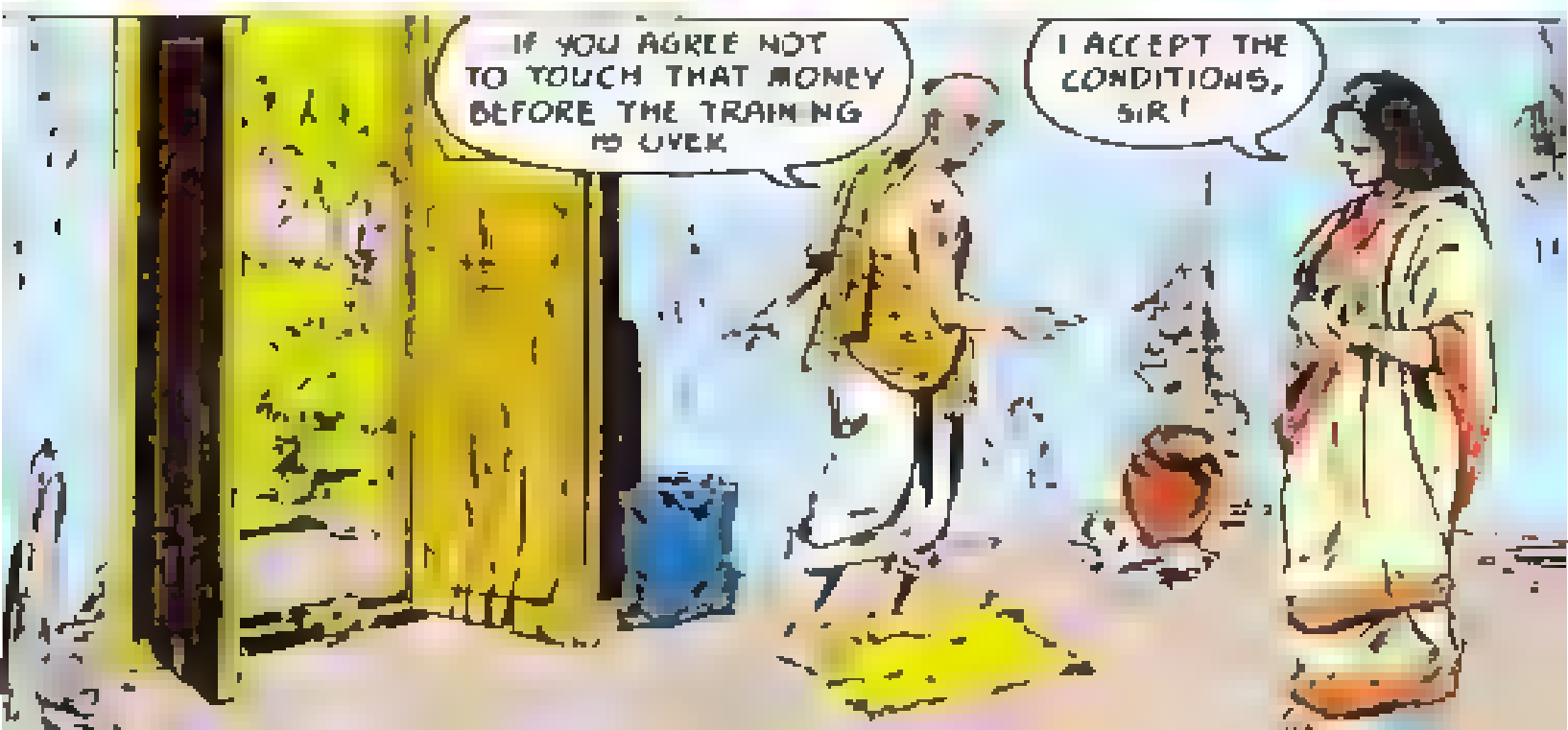
YOU NEED TRAINING TO HANDLE IT PROPERLY. THAT SHOULD TAKE SOME FIVE YEARS.

I CAN TRAIN YOU IF YOU ARE WILLING TO FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS WITHOUT QUESTIONING THEM AND...



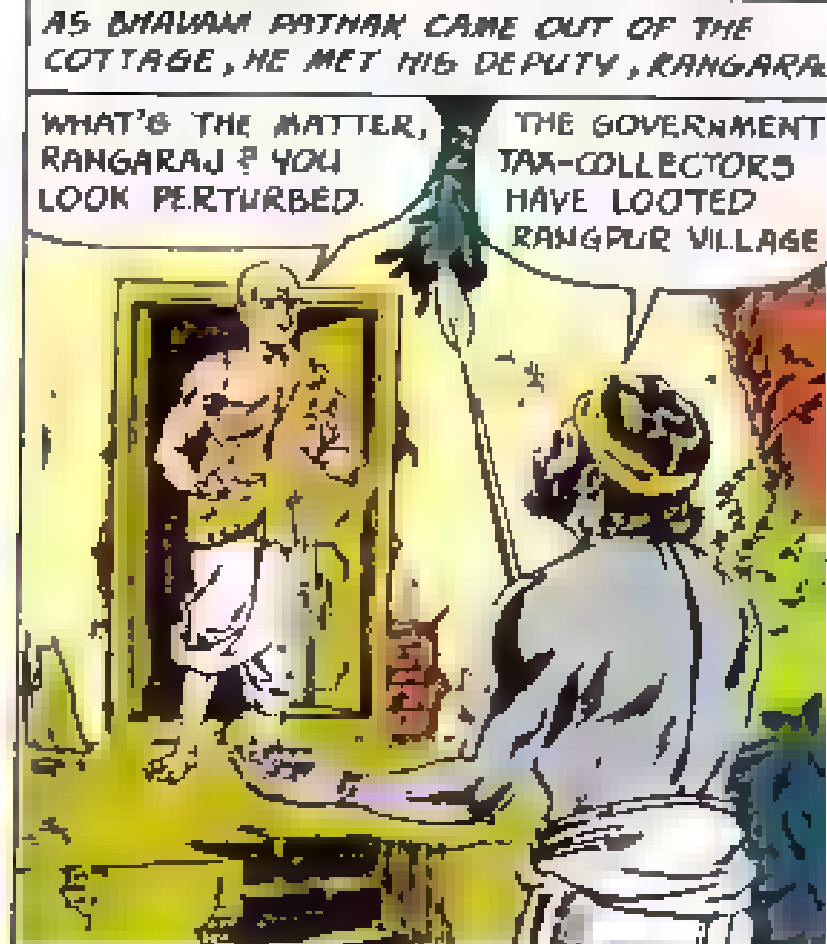
IF YOU AGREE NOT TO TOUCH THAT MONEY BEFORE THE TRAINING IS OVER.

I ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS, SIR!





GOOD! I WILL GO NOW AND SEND A WOMAN HERE TO LOOK AFTER YOU.



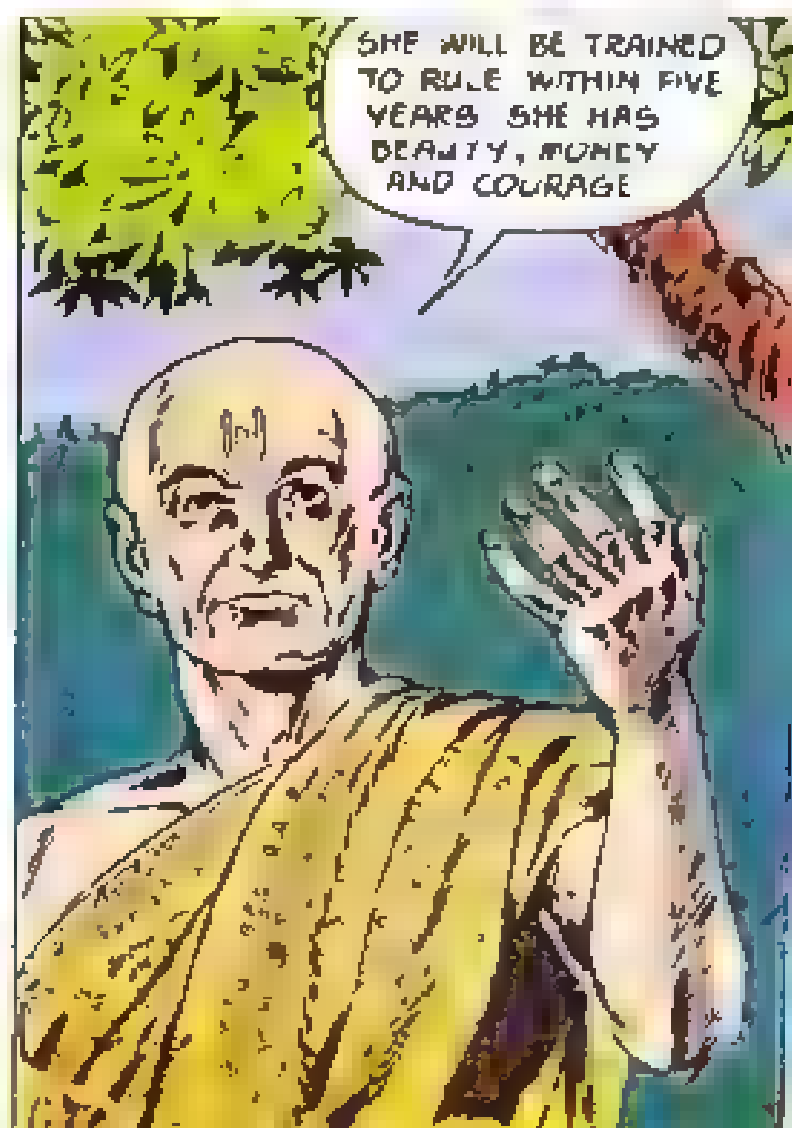
WHAT'S THE MATTER, RANGARAJ? YOU LOOK PERTURBED.

THE GOVERNMENT TAX-COLLECTORS HAVE LOOTED RANGPUR VILLAGE



SHALL WE ATTACK THEM AND RETURN THE VILLAGERS' PROPERTY?

OF COURSE! NOW LISTEN, I'VE AT LAST FOUND A 'QUEEN' FOR US

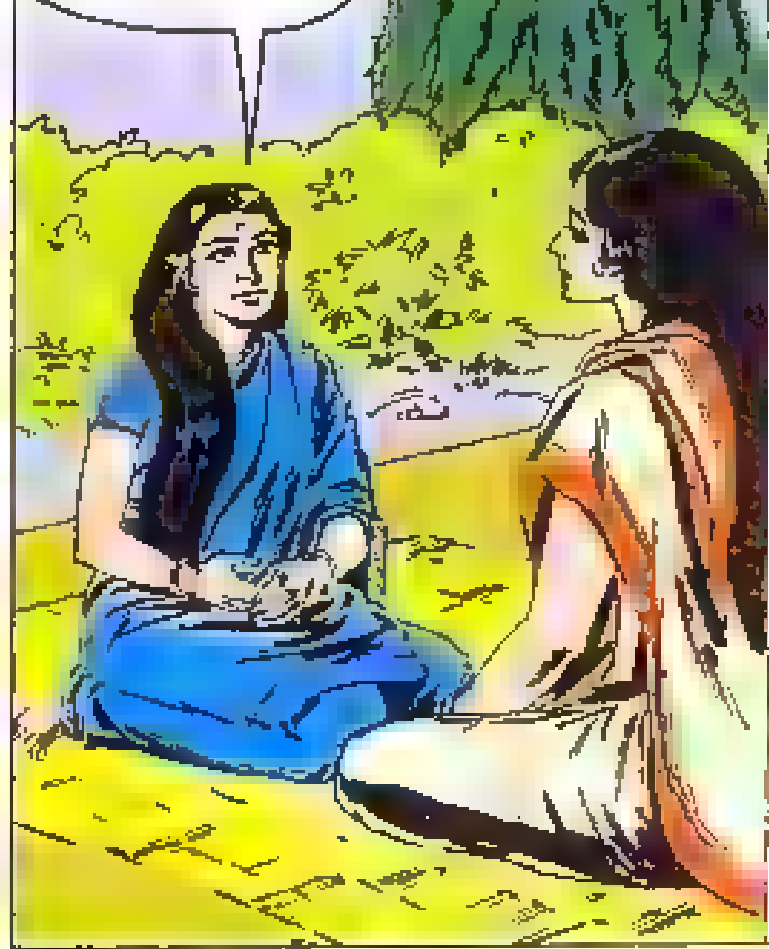


SHE WILL BE TRAINED TO RULE WITHIN FIVE YEARS SHE HAS BEAUTY, MONEY AND COURAGE

SOON AFTER BHAVANI PATHAK LEFT,
PRAFULLA'S INSTRUCTRESS ARRIVED.



I HAVE ONLY A SISTER. I'LL BRING HER HERE SOME DAY.



PRAFULLA'S TRAINING BEGAN THE NEXT MORNING



THIS IS YOUR WARDROBE - FOUR SARIS - HIS ORDER

THAT'S MORE THAN SUFFICIENT FOR ME



WHILE NISHI TOOK CHARGE OF PRAFULLA'S PRACTICAL TRAINING, BHAVANI PATHAK INSTRUCTED HER ON VARIOUS ARTS AND SCIENCES.

NOW THAT YOU'VE LEARNT THE LANGUAGE YOU MAY TAKE UP LITERATURE. LET KUMARA GAMBHAVAM* BE THE FIRST BOOK.



THE NEXT MORNING —

THIS YEAR YOU ARE REQUIRED TO SLEEP ON THE BARE FLOOR.

ALL I NEED IS A PLACE TO SLEEP.



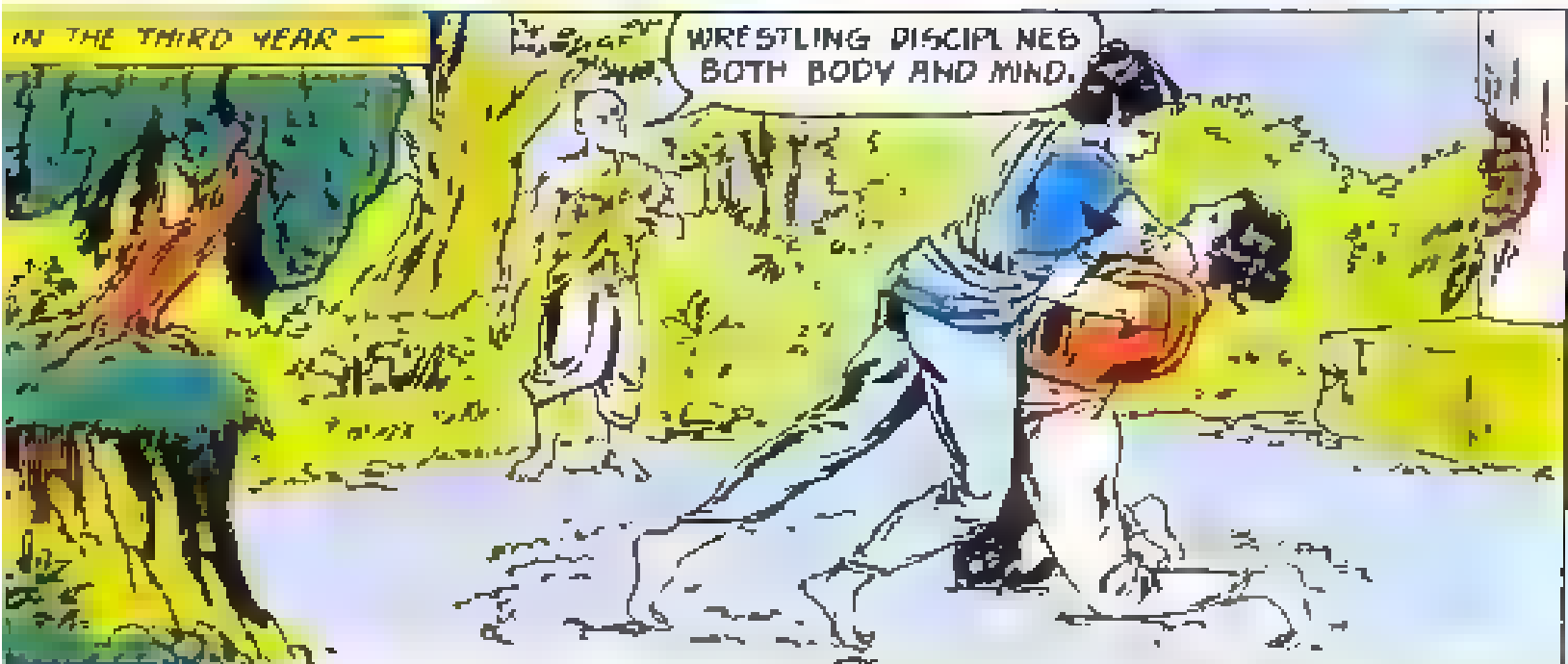
BHAVANI PATHAK EXPLAINED THE GITA† TO HER.

"ARJUNA!" SAYS KRISHNA, "WORK THEN FOR WORK'S SAKE, AND NOT FOR THE FRUIT THEREOF"



IN THE THIRD YEAR —

WRESTLING DISCIPLINES BOTH BODY AND MIND.



IN THOSE FIVE YEARS PROFULLA'S TRAINING WAS COMPLETE

NOW YOU CAN DEAL
WITH ANY SITUATION
WITH A CALM AND
COURAGEOUS MIND.

BUT WHAT SHALL
I DO NOW ?



WE CAN DO
WHATEVER
YOU LIKE

I'LL GIVE YOU
ALL MY MONEY
- PLEASE GIVE
UP DACOITY



I AM NOT IN IT
FOR THE MONEY
IT IS MY MEANS
OF FIGHTING
INJUSTICE.



THEN I WOULD LIKE TO
JOIN YOU AS YOUR
ASSISTANT.

I DID EXPECT
YOU TO JOIN
US, NOT AS
MY ASSIS-
TANT BUT
AS OUR
QUEEN!



PROFULLA THUS JOINED THE DACOIT GANG. IN A SHORT PERIOD
SHE BECAME WELL KNOWN AS THE NEW CHIEF

THE FEMININE OF CHOUDHURI, WHICH IS ANOTHER NAME

MEANWHILE, IN HARABALLABH'S HOUSE -

SEVEN YEARS HAVE
GONE BY SINCE I LAST
SAW YOU, PRAFULLA.

THE PEOPLE OF YOUR
VILLAGE SWEAR THAT
YOU ARE DEAD. BUT
SOMETHING TELLS ME
THAT YOU ARE ALIVE.

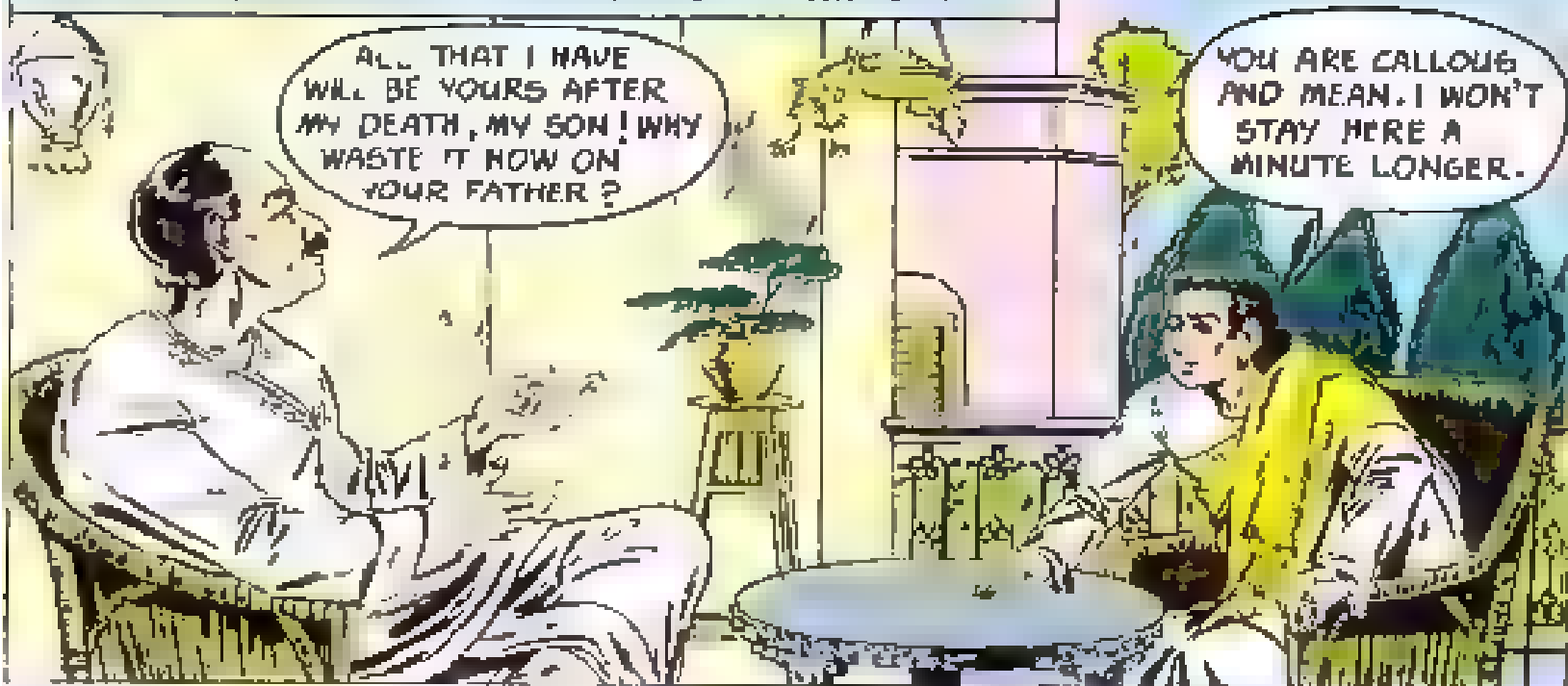
JWS* THEN -

I AM RUINED, MY SON! ONCE
AGAIN THE DACOITS HAVE
LOOTED MY REVENUE
COLLECTIONS

MY TAX ARREARS
HAVE MOUNTED TO
RS 50,000 IF I DO
NOT PAY, I WILL
BE ARRESTED

I WILL TRY TO
BORROW THE AMOUNT
FROM SAGAR'S FATHER

BRAJESHWAR WENT TO SEE HIS FATHER-IN-LAW. BUT —



ALL THAT I HAVE
WILL BE YOURS AFTER
MY DEATH, MY SON! WHY
WASTE IT NOW ON
YOUR FATHER?

YOU ARE CALLOUS
AND MEAN. I WON'T
STAY HERE A
MINUTE LONGER.

BRAJESHWAR RUSHED OUT IN A RAGE.
SAGAR RAN OUT AFTER HIM AND FELL
AT HIS FEET.



TAKE ME
WITH YOU
I HAVE DONE
NO WRONG

NO. I HAVE SEVERED
ALL TIES WITH YOU
AND YOUR FATHER.

WHEN BRAJESHWAR TRIED TO FREE
HIS LEGS, SAGAR WAS HURT.



HOW DARE YOU
KICK YOUR
LAWFUL WIFE!

GET OUT OF MY
WAY. I AM NO SLAVE
TO ANY RICH MAN'S
DAUGHTER.



BRAJESHWAR THOUGHT IT WAS SAGAR'S VOICE AND LEFT IN A RAGE. SAGAR HARDLY NOTICED IT SO FULL OF WONDER WAS SHE.



SAGAR TREMBLED AS DEVI CHOUDHURANI APPEARED THROUGH THE GATE

DON'T BE AFRAID! I COME AS YOUR FRIEND.

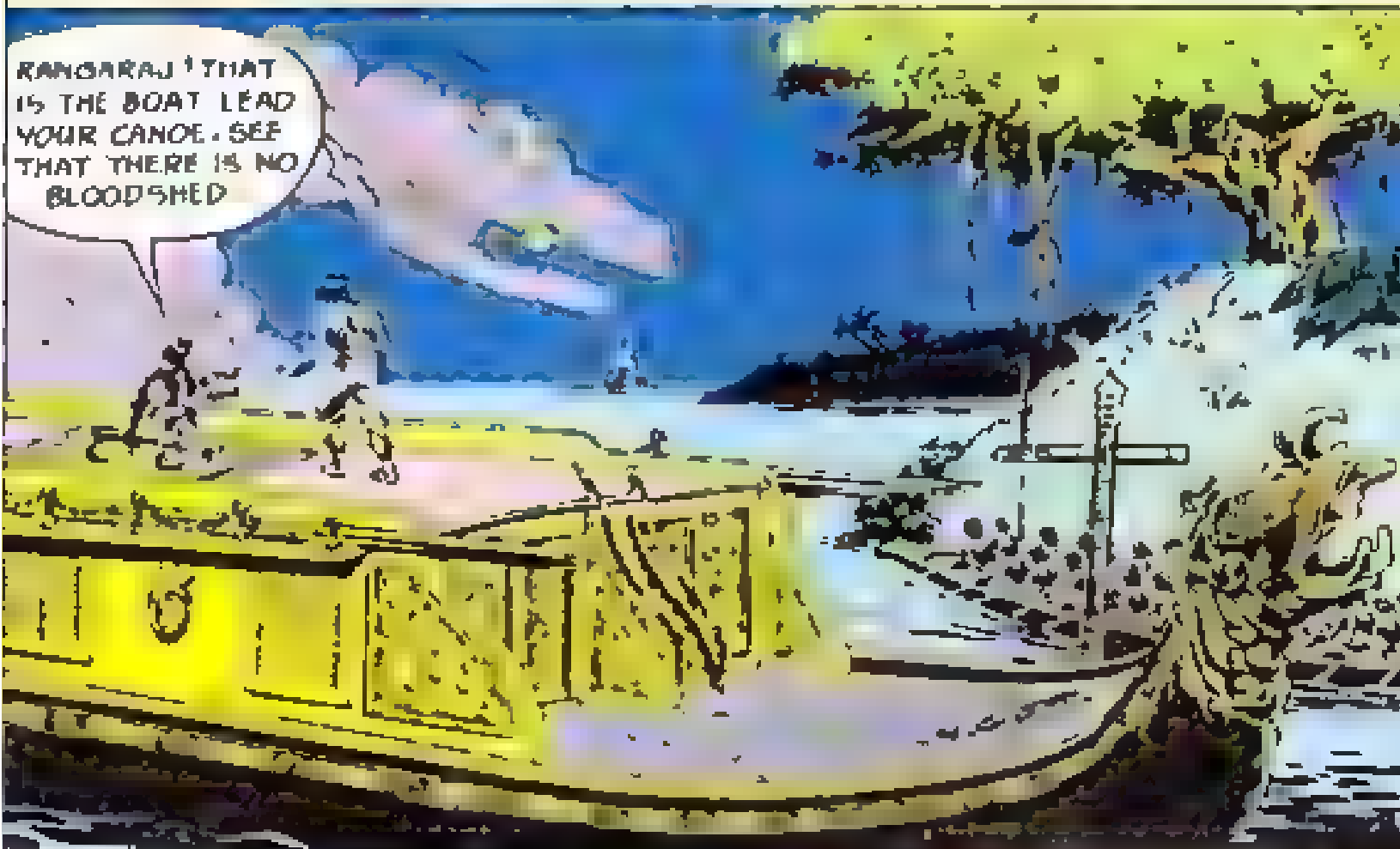
I AM AN UNFORTUNATE G.L., DEVI! I... OH! PRAFULLA IT'S YOU!



NO, SAGAR! PRAFULLA IS DEAD NOW LET'S HURRY, WE HAVE TO FULFIL OUR VOW



THAT NIGHT, A BARGE WAS ANCHORED ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER TRISPOTA.



RANGARAJ CAME TO HIS CANOE AND GAVE ORDERS



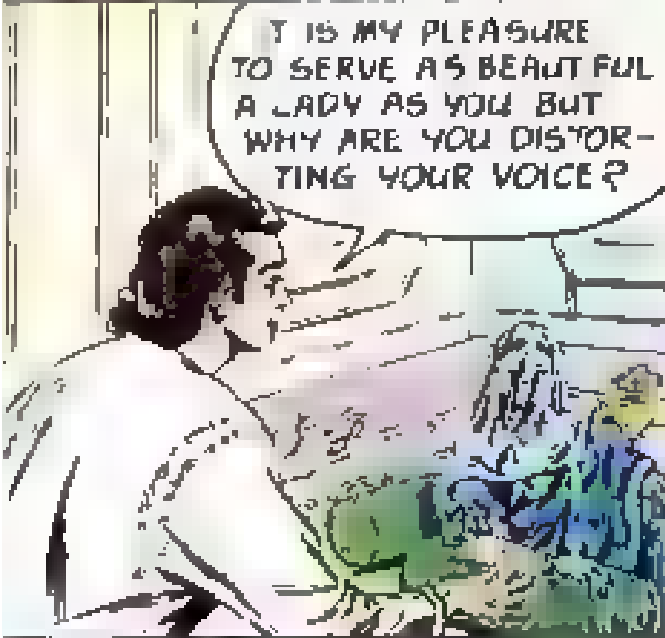


WITH A SHORT TIME THE LAKSHMAN HELD UP ALL THE DUTY MEN AND CAUGHT THEM OF BRAJESHWAR.

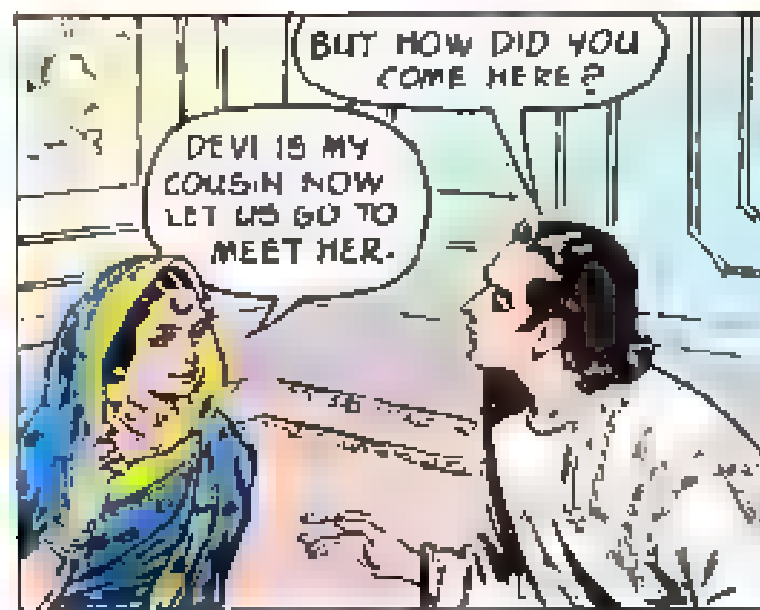


BRAJESHWAR WAS LED TO THE WATERSIDE BRIDGE WHERE HE WAS LEFT IN FRONT OF
A VEHICLE LAMP

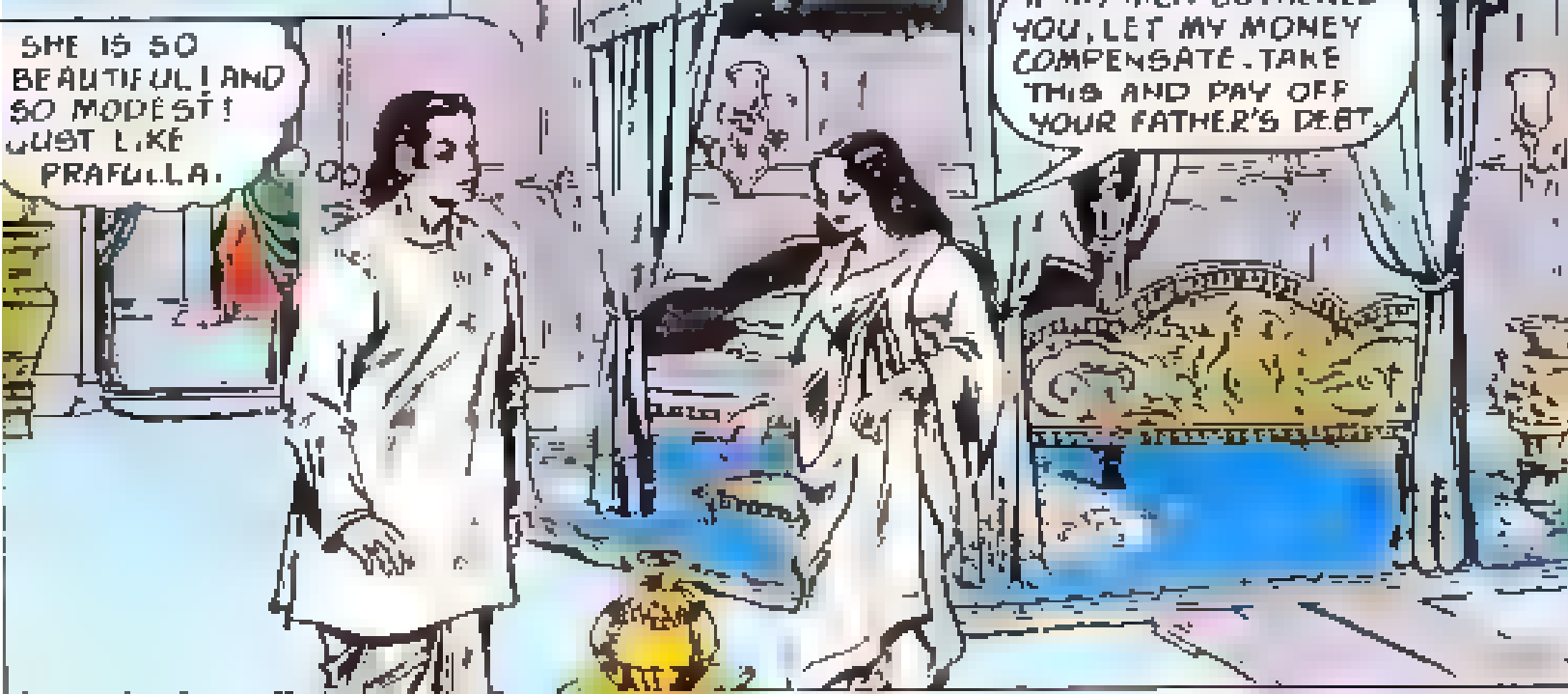




AS SOON AS BRAJESHWAR TOUCHED HER
FEET, THE LADY REMOVED HER VEIL WITH
A LAUGH

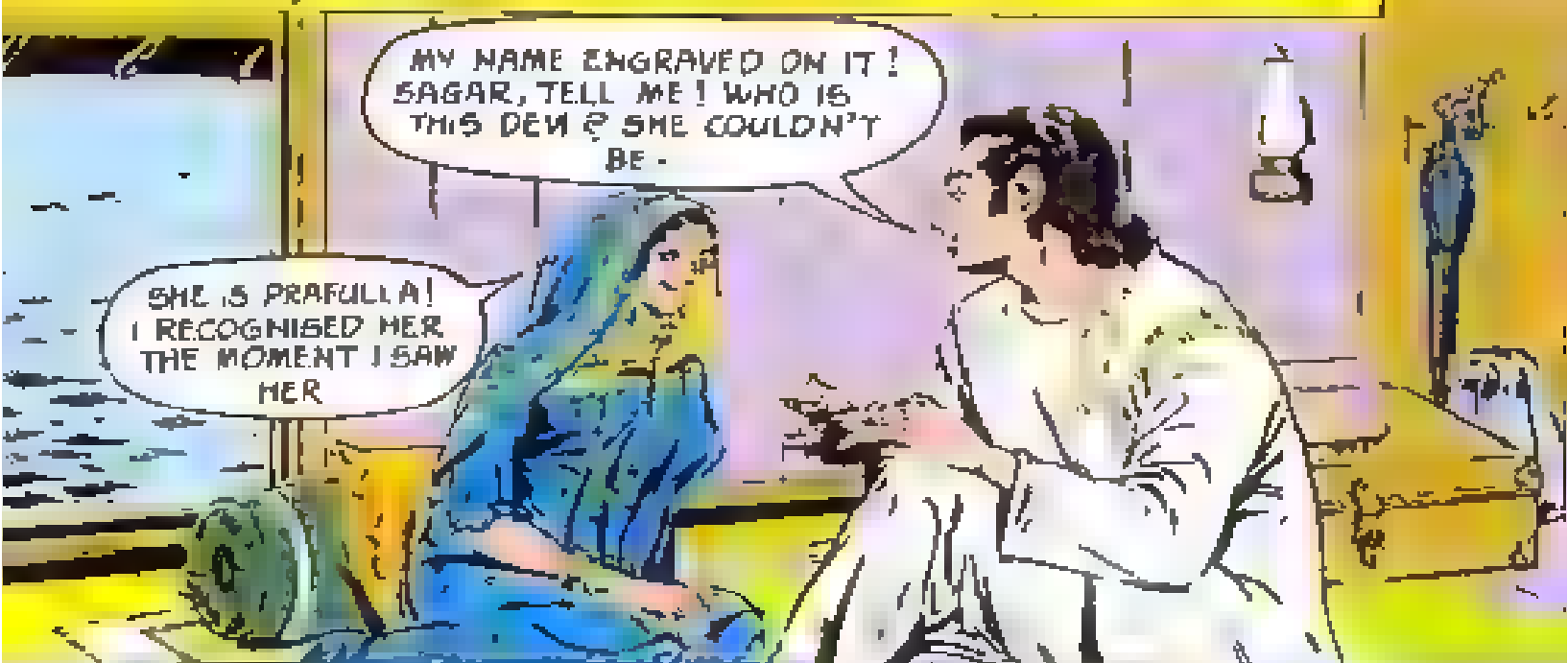


BRAJESHWAR WAS LED TO DEVI IN ANOTHER CABIN. DEVI GOT UP FROM HER SEAT
AND BOWED TO HIM





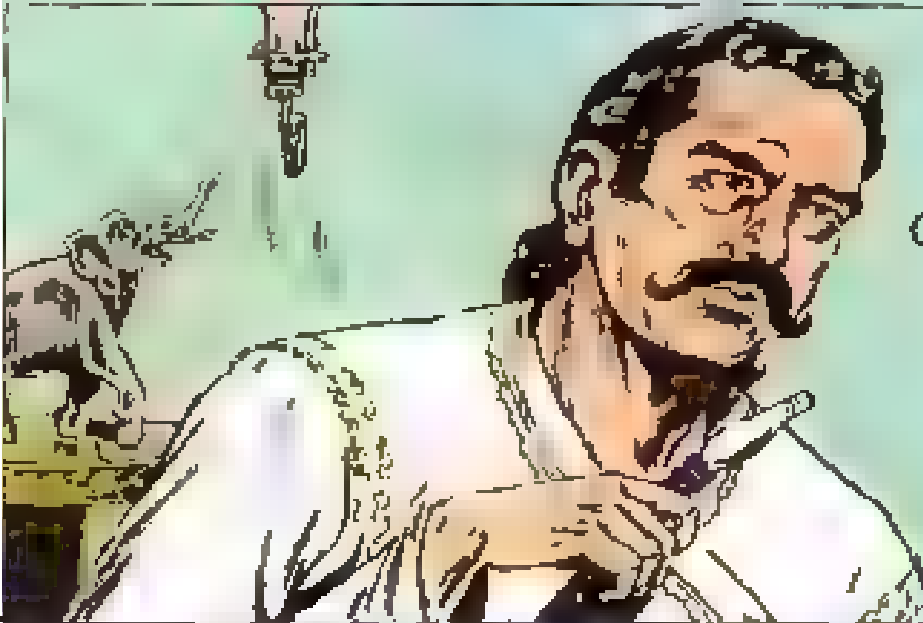
A LITTLE LATER, AS BRAJESHWAR WAS RETURNING HOME WITH SAGAR



BACK AT HOME, BRAJESHWAR GAVE THE MONEY TO HIS FATHER



A MONTH IN THE HINDU CALENDAR



RETURN THE TAINTED
MONEY OF A DACOIT?
NONSENSE ON THE
CONTRARY, HAND HER
OVER TO THE POLICE
AND COLLECT THE
PRIZE-MONEY

MEANWHILE, DEVI MET BHAVANI PATHAK.



THAKUR, I AM TIRED OF
PLAYING QUEEN! TAKE
ALL MY MONEY AND
PERMIT ME TO GO BACK
TO MY
PEOPLE.

PEOPLE REVERE
YOU AS A GODDESS
WITHOUT YOU
OUR MISSION
WOULD FAIL.



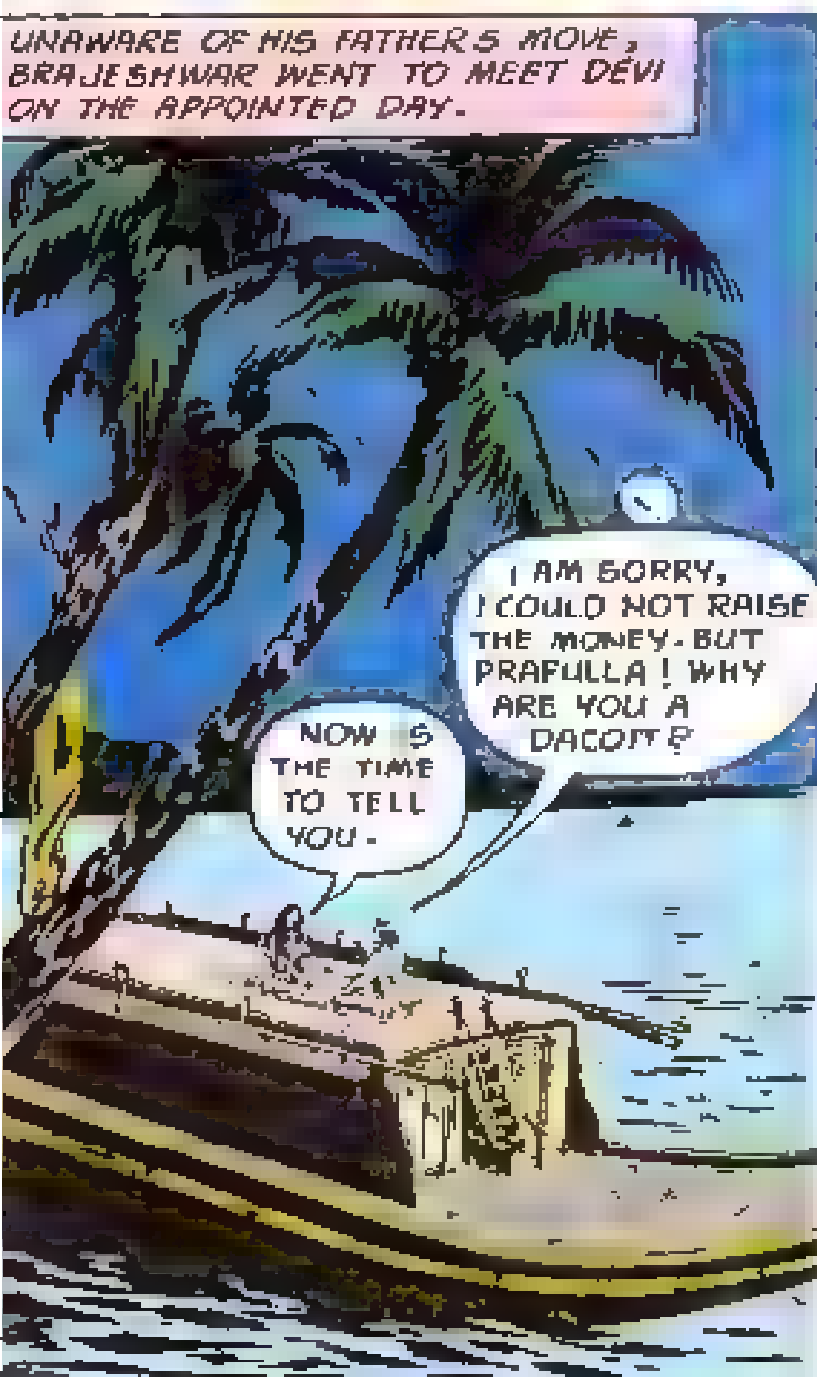
MOREOVER, NEXT WEEK
YOU ARE TO HOLD COURT
AND DISTRIBUTE MONEY
TO THE POOR.

YES BUT IT
WILL BE THE
LAST COURT
I'LL HOLD



MEANWHILE, BRAJESHWAR TOO
WAS UNHAPPY.

PRAFULLA A DACOIT?
WHY DACOITY OF
ALL PROFESSIONS?



BUT I HAVE TO
LET THEM ARREST
ME OTHERWISE
YOUR FATHER
WOULD BE IN
DANGER.

WHAT! MY
FATHER, AN
INFORMER?

THE CONVERSATION WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE SOUND OF GUNS. RANGARAJ CAME
RUNNING IN.

RANI THAKUR
HAS COME WITH
HER MEN TO
PROTECT YOU.

ASK HIM TO GO BACK,
RANGARAJ. I AND YOU GO
TO THE BRITISH WITH
A WHITE FLAG!

BOOM
BOOM

RANGARAJ, LOOK
AT THE SKY. GOD
IS WITH ME



TO GAIN TIME, THE THREE LADIES WENT ON CONFUSING THE LIEUTENANT



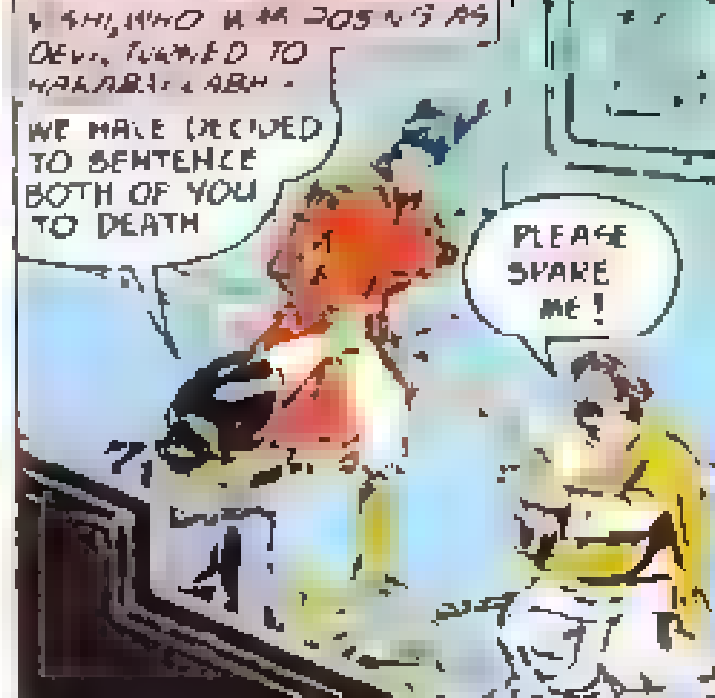
AS DEVI HAD ANTICIPATED, A VIOLENT STORM SOON BROKE OUT. DEVI'S BOATMEN WERE FALTIRED FOR IT. BEFORE ANYONE COULD REALISE WHAT WAS HAPPENING, HER BARGE FORCED THE LUTERAN OF ENGLISH BUNTS AND WAS SOON OUT OF SIGHT.



INSIDE THE CABIN



A FEW HOURS LATER





THE NEXT DAY, PRAFULLA AND BRAJESHWAR TOOK LEAVE OF THE OTHERS



RANGARAJ! TAKE CHARGE
OF MY MONEY AND CON-
TINUE TO HELP THE POOR
FAREWELL TO ALL OF
YOU

LATER IN THE AFTERNOON, AT HARABALLABH'S HOUSE



BRAJA! HOW DID
YOU GET BACK THIS
LOST TREASURE?

I FOUND HER
BY GOD'S GRACE
BUT YOU HAVE TO
MAKE FATHER
AGREE.

AND SAGAR CAME RUNNING IN -



YOU LOOK LIKE
A GODDESS,
DEVI!

SHH! SAGAR!
DEVI IS DEAD
AND SO IS
PRAFULLA.
I AM THE
NEW BRIDE.

HER TRAINING IN THE FOREST HELPED PRAFULLA TO BECOME AN IDEAL
HOUSEWIFE EVERYONE, INCLUDING, HARABALLABH DOTTED ON HER. AS FOR
BHAVANI PATHAK, HE WAS SO DEJECTED THAT HE SUBMITTED
HIMSELF TO THE AUTHORITIES AND WAS DEPORTED.



Kapala Kundala





Illustrated Classics From India

Kapala Kundala

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (1838-1894) is considered to be one of the greatest writers in the world of Bengali literature. He wrote *Kapala Kundala*, his second novel, when he was only 28 years old.

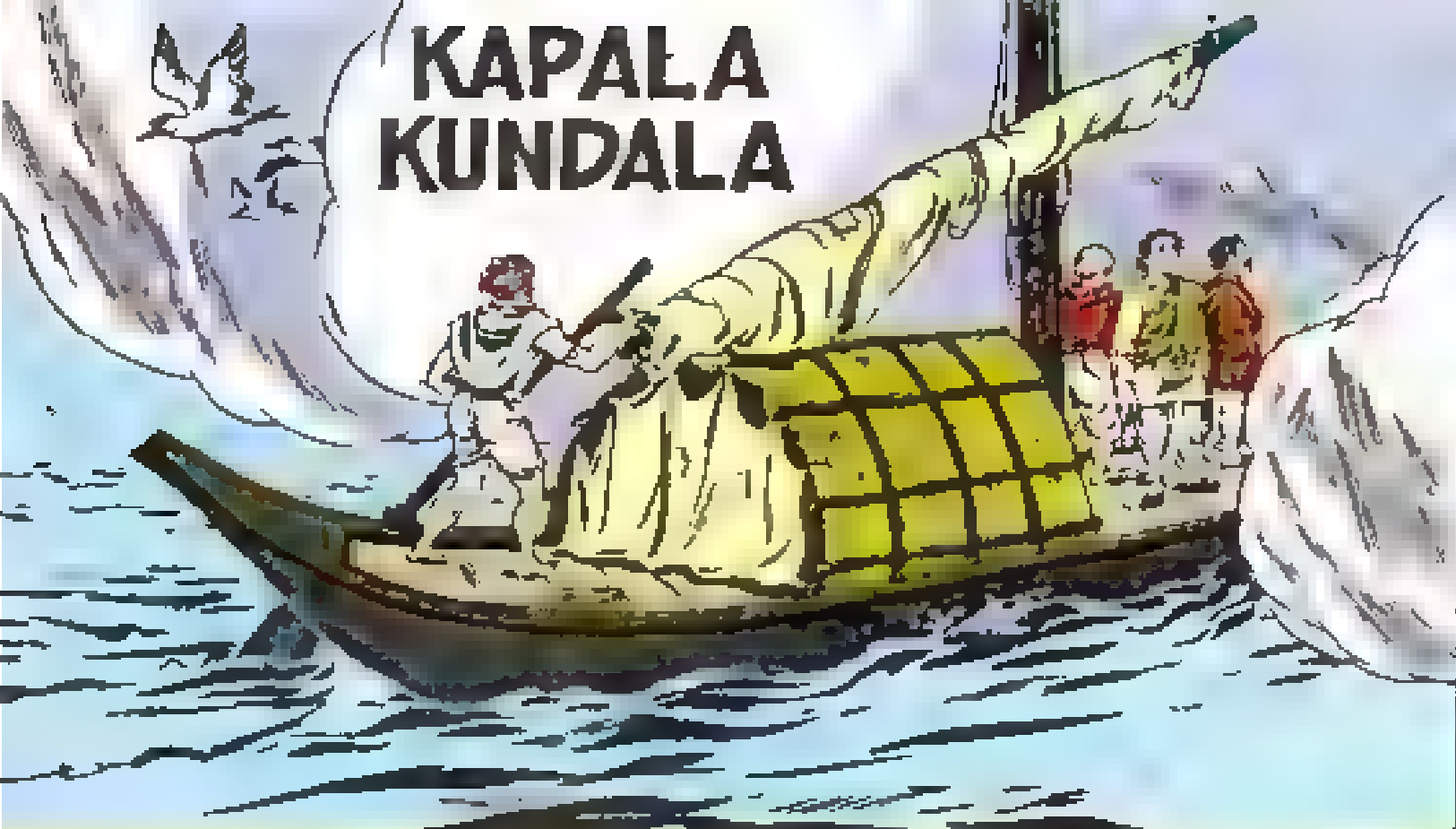
It is said that when Bankim Chandra lived in Kanthi, on the coast of southwest Bengal, a *kapalik* (a *Tantric* worshipper of Kali or Shiva) frequently visited him. The mystery surrounding the *kapalik* made a deep impression on Bankim. He conceived the idea of writing a novel about a girl brought up by a *kapalik* in complete isolation from the civilised world.

The name *Kapala Kundala* has been taken from the Sanskrit play *Malati-Madhava*. In the play, Kapala is the associate of the evil *kapalik*, Aghora Ghanta, and she is as heinous as her mentor. But although our heroine in *Kapala Kundala* was also brought up by an evil *kapalik*, she is full human affection and kindness.

This story is full of romantic and interesting characters. While presenting this fascinating tale of romance, certain events and characters have been omitted and the story has been modified to make it suitable for children.

Script: Debran Mitra Illustrations: Souren Roy

KAPALA KUNDALA



DURING THE REIGN OF AKBAR THE GREAT, A LONE BOAT WAS RETURNING FROM A VOYAGE OF PILGRIMAGE TO GANGASAGAR * A DENSE FOG HAD DESCENDED AND, THOUGH IT WAS EARLY IN THE MORNING, NOTHING COULD BE SEEN FOR MILES THE BOAT HAD LOST ITS WAY.

OH GOD! WE ARE LOST IF WE STRIKE AGAINST A ROCK!

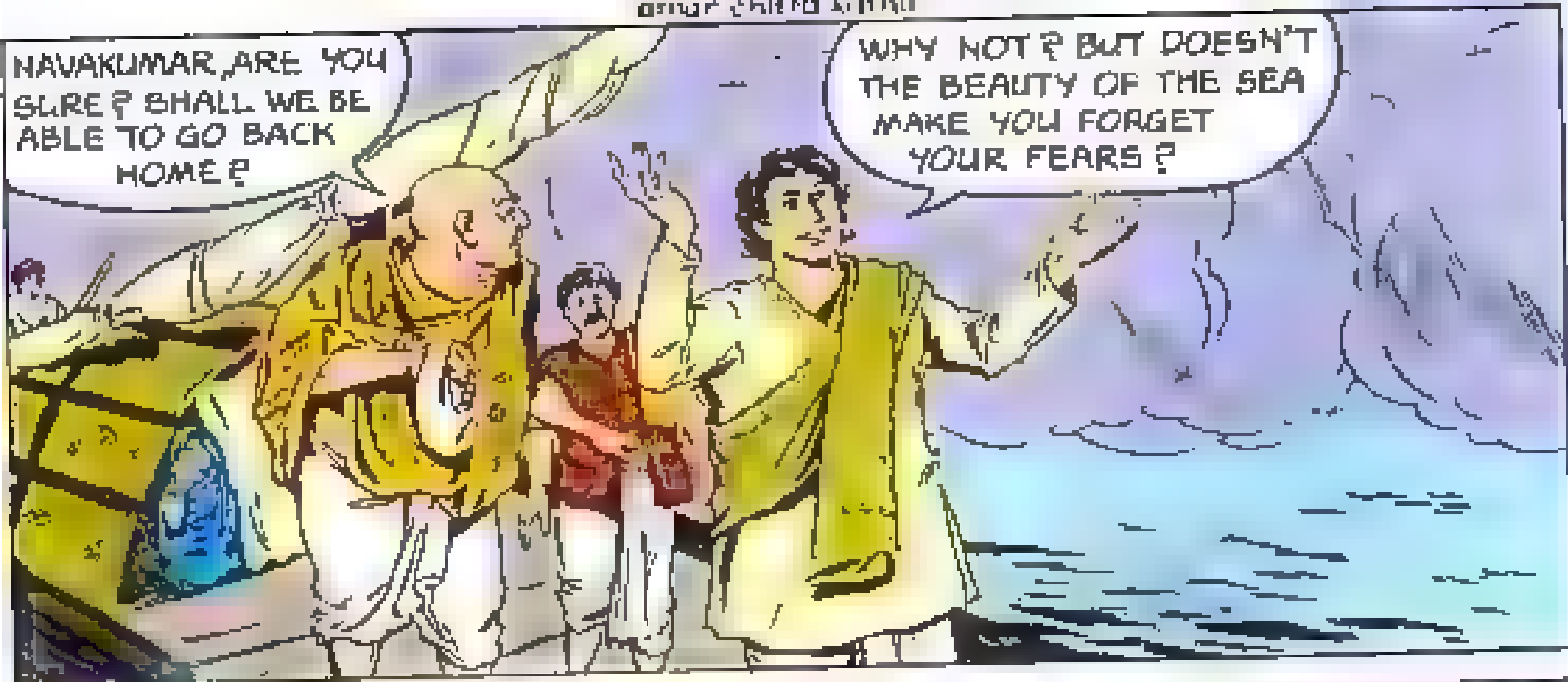
IT WILL BE WORSE IF WE ARE WASHED ASHORE THEN WE'LL BE AT THE MERCY OF WILD BEASTS IN THE JUNGLES.



PLEASE! PLEASE! REMAIN CALM. WE SHOULD FIND OUR WAY BY DAYBREAK.



* THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER HOOGHLY



THERE MUST BE
PLENTY OF WOOD
IN THAT VAST
FOREST.

BUT WHO WILL GO
THERE AND RISK
BEING KILLED BY
TIGERS?



NAVAKUMAR IS A
BRAVE YOUNG MAN.
HE'LL DO IT.

I WILL TRY BUT
WILL SOMEONE COME
WITH ME?



NO ONE ELSE DARED TO GO. SO NAVA-
KUMAR WENT INTO THE FOREST ALONE.

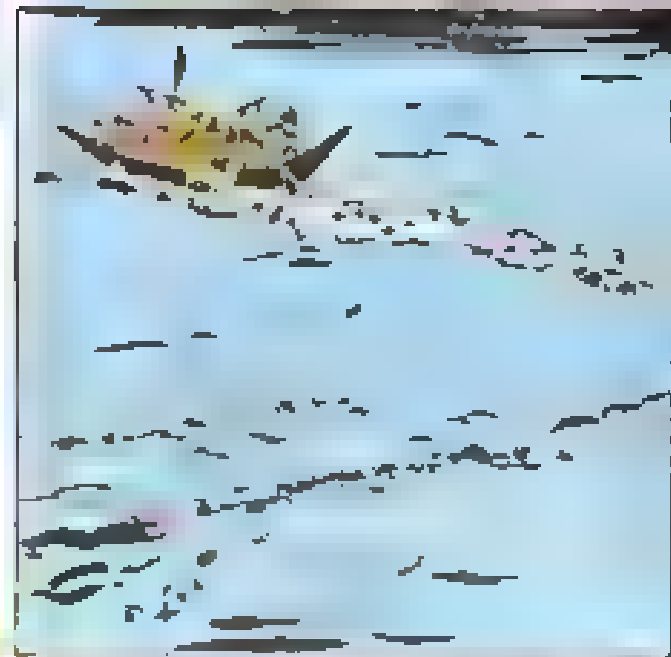


I HOPE I'LL
BE ABLE TO
CARRY ALL
THIS WOOD.





THE STORMY WATERS UNNERVED THEM AND THE PASSENGERS RUSHED TO THE BOAT



THEY WERE DRIVEN A LONG WAY OFF THE COAST AND THEY DID NOT TO COME BACK FOR NAVAKUMAR



IT WAS LATE IN THE EVENING WHEN NAVAKUMAR RETURNED TO FIND HIS COMPANIONS GONE



OR, PERHAPS, THEY'VE DESERTED ME! ANYWAY, I MUST FIND SHELTER FOR THE NIGHT.



LOOKING FOR SHELTER IN THE FOREST, NAVAKUMAR SAW A FIRE FLICKERING IN THE DISTANCE.



AS HE DREW NEARER, HE SAW A KAPALIK* MEDITATING BEFORE THE FIRE.



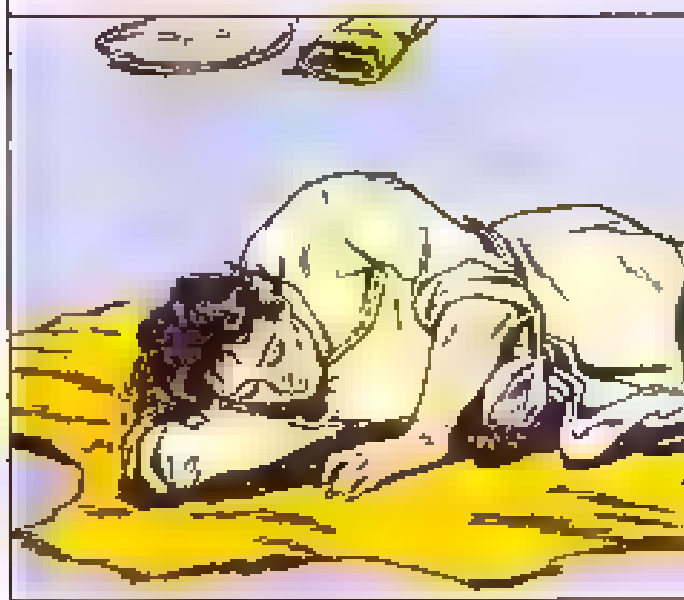
AFTER A WHILE -



THE KAPALIK TOOK NAVAKUMAR TO HIS COTTAGE.



NAVAKUMAR WAS SO TIRED THAT HE SLEPT TILL THE NEXT EVENING.



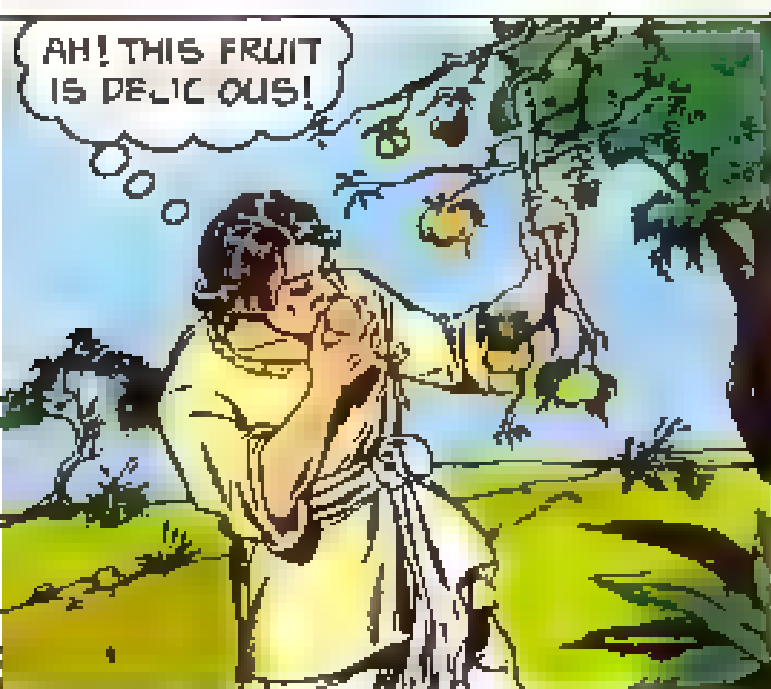
* A VOTARY OF THE GODDESS KAL WHO OFFERS HUMAN SACRIFICE

WHEN HE FINALLY WOKE UP —



THE KAPALIK MUST HAVE
COME AND
GONE AGAIN.
AND I AM
HUNGRY
ONCE MORE.

HE WENT OUT IN SEARCH OF FOOD.



AH! THIS FRUIT
IS DELICIOUS!



I'D BETTER GO
BACK NOW. THE
KAPALIK MUST
HAVE RETURNED.

BUT HE LOST HIS WAY IN THE FOREST.



I THOUGHT THAT
IT WOULD BE EASY
TO RETURN TO
THE COTTAGE.

SUDDENLY —



HAVE YOU LOST
YOUR WAY, YOUNG
MAN?

OH! YOU GAVE
ME A START!
WHO ARE YOU?



AM KAPALA
KUNDALA COME
WITH ME!

NAVAKUMAR FOLLOWED HER AS IF IN A
TRANCE AFTER LEADING HIM TO THE
COTTAGE, THE BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN
STEPPED BEHIND A BUSH AND
DISAPPEARED INTO THE FOREST



WHERE HAS
SHE GONE? SHE
WAS HERE A
MOMENT AGO!

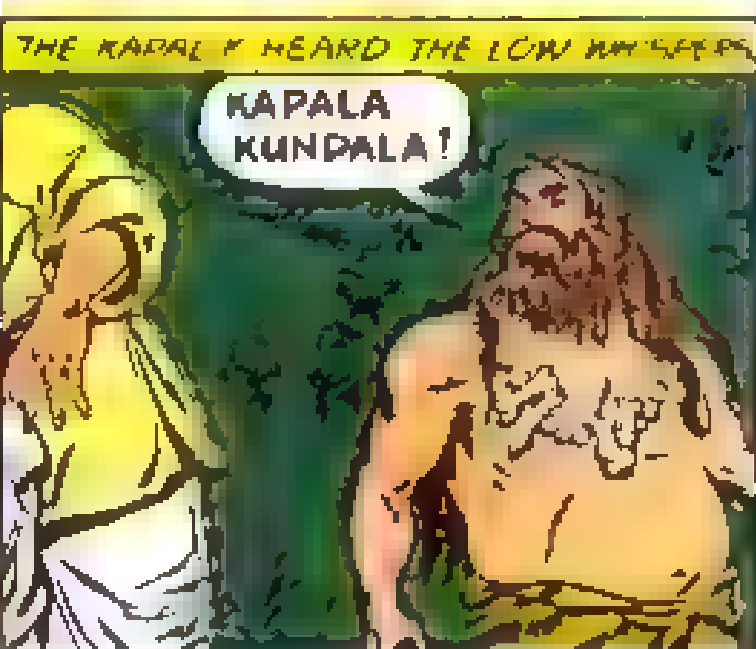
THE NEXT DAY —



I AM VERY ANXIOUS TO GO
BACK HOME WILL YOU
PLEASE SHOW ME THE
WAY?



I'LL SHOW YOU THE
WAY. JUST FOLLOW
ME!



THE KAPALIK DRAGGED HIM AWAY TO HIS PLACE OF MEDITATION.



BE CALM! ANYWAY, YOU ARE GIVING YOUR LIFE FOR A SACRED CAUSE.

AND BOUND HIM FIRMLY.

DON'T TRY TO RESIST



AFTER HIS PREPARATIONS FOR THE SACRIFICE WERE COMPLETED —



BUT WHERE IS MY SCIMITAR? I MUST HAVE DROPPED IT WHILE HE WAS STRUGGLING WITH ME.

THE KAPALIK WENT AWAY TO LOOK FOR THE SCIMITAR...



WHEN KAPALA KUNDALA SUDDENLY APPEARED WITH THE SCIMITAR!

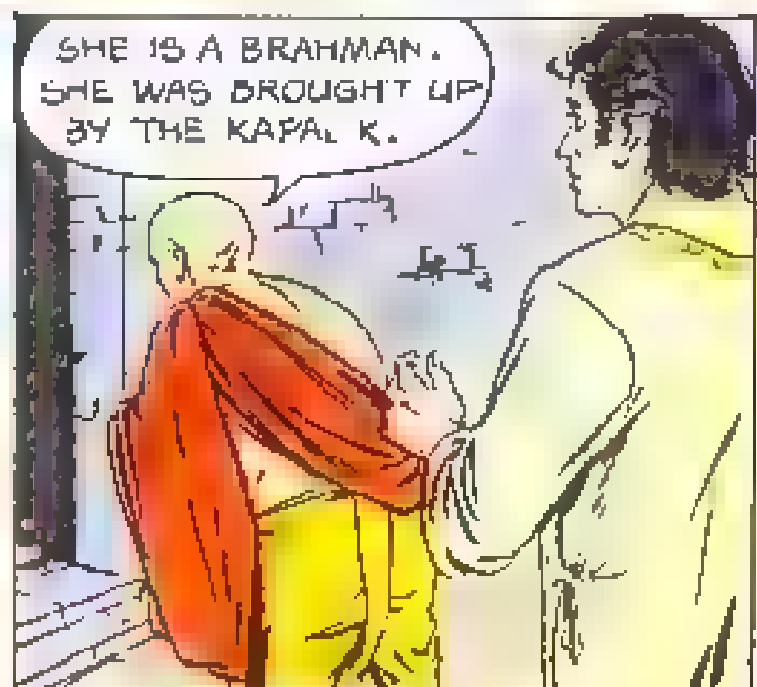
SH-SHH! DON'T MAKE A NOISE! HE MIGHT HEAR US. I'LL FREE YOU IN NO TIME.



KAPALA KUNDALA THEN LED NAVAKUMAR TO A TEMPLE IN THE FOREST AND TOLD THE PRIEST THERE THE WHOLE STORY



THE PRIEST TOOK NAVAKUMAR INTO THE TEMPLE.



POOR GIRL! WILL GLADLY PROTECT HER. SHE HAS SAVED MY LIFE. AND SHE'S BEAUTIFUL AND GOOD!

KAPALA KUNDALA WAS CALLED IN.

DAUGHTER, YOU ARE ALL ALONE AND AT THE MERCY OF THE KAPALIK MARRY THIS YOUNG MAN AND LEAVE THE FOREST WITH HIM

WOULD BE HAPPY TO DO SO

SO NAVAKUMAR AND KAPALA KUNDALA BECAME HUSBAND AND WIFE

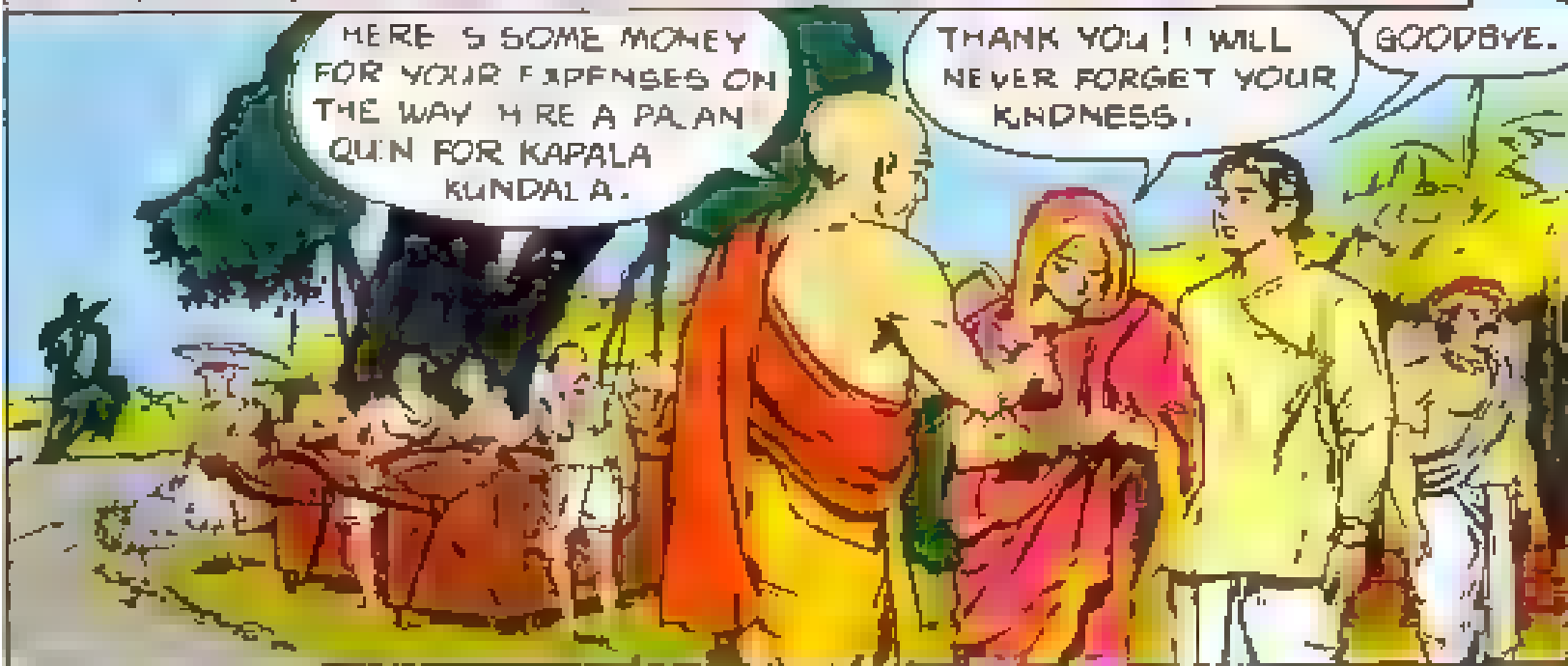


THE NEXT DAY, THE PRIEST ESCORTED THEM TO THE NEAREST VILLAGE.

HERE'S SOME MONEY FOR YOUR EXPENSES ON THE WAY. HERE IS A PALANQUIN FOR KAPALA KUNDALA.

THANK YOU! I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS.

GOODBYE.



AFTER THE PRIEST HAD LEFT, A PALANQUIN WAS HIRED FOR KAPALA AND THEY CONTINUED THEIR JOURNEY.



I HOPE WE REACH THE NEXT VILLAGE SOON. MY FEET ARE ACHING....



GRADUALLY HE LOST PACE WITH THE PALANQUIN.

THEY'LL WAIT FOR ME AT THE VILLAGE INN. I CAN'T HURRY. I AM FAR TOO TIRED.



BUT BY NIGHTFALL NAVAKUMAR BECAME WORRIED. THE VILLAGE WAS NOWHERE IN SIGHT

HOPE KAPALA HAS ARRIVED SAFELY AT THE INN. AM WORRIED ABOUT DACOITS



HIS ANXIETY INCREASED WHEN HE STUMBLED UPON A BROKEN PALANQUIN.

KAPALA KUNDALA! IS IT YOU?





THE INN WAS, AFTER ALL, NOT VERY FAR AWAY, AND THEY SOON REACHED IT.

AH! MY WIFE HAS ARRIVED ALREADY. THANK GOD SHE IS SAFE.

MY MEN HAVE ARRIVED TOO. THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF ME.

LATER AT THE INN —

I DID NOT RECOGNISE HIM AT FIRST, BUT I AM SURE NOW. IT MUST BE HIM! I'LL SPEAK TO HIM AGAIN AND FIND OUT.

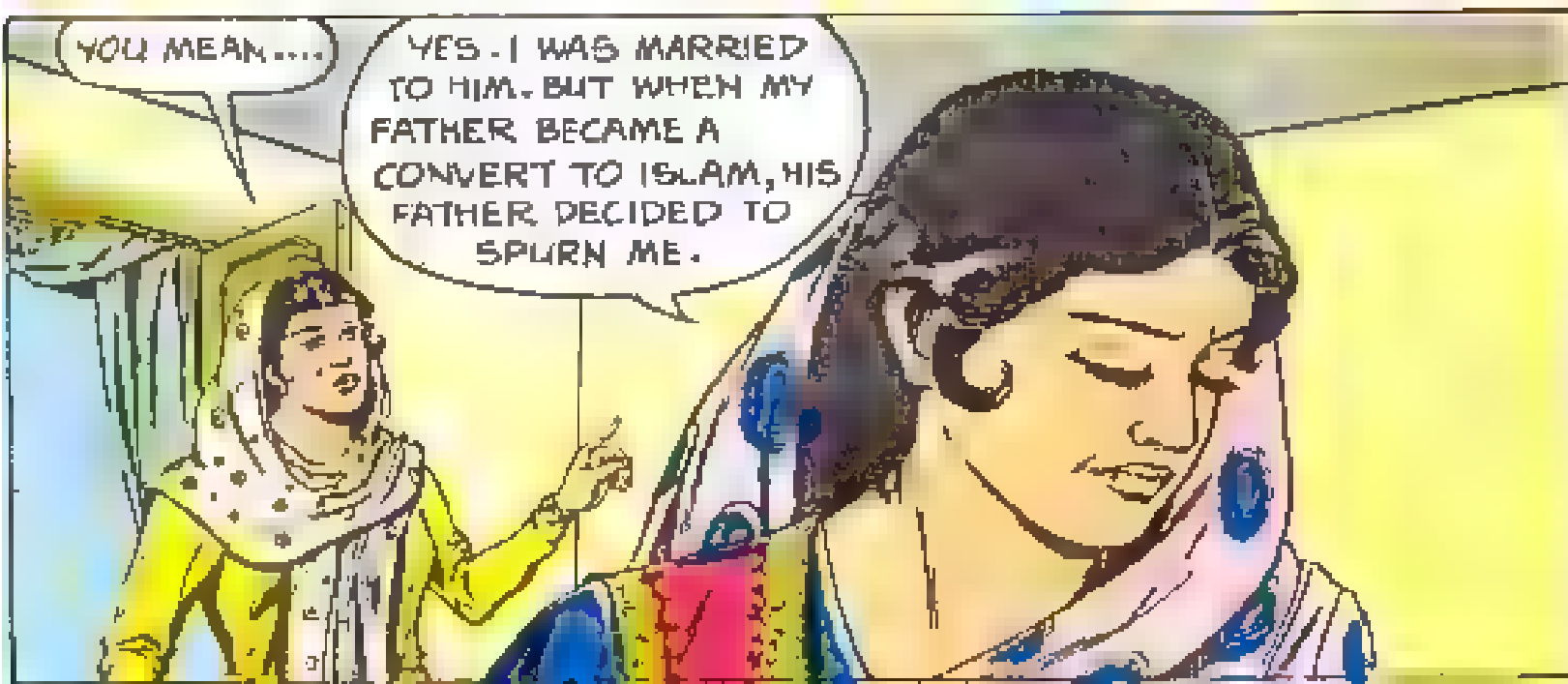
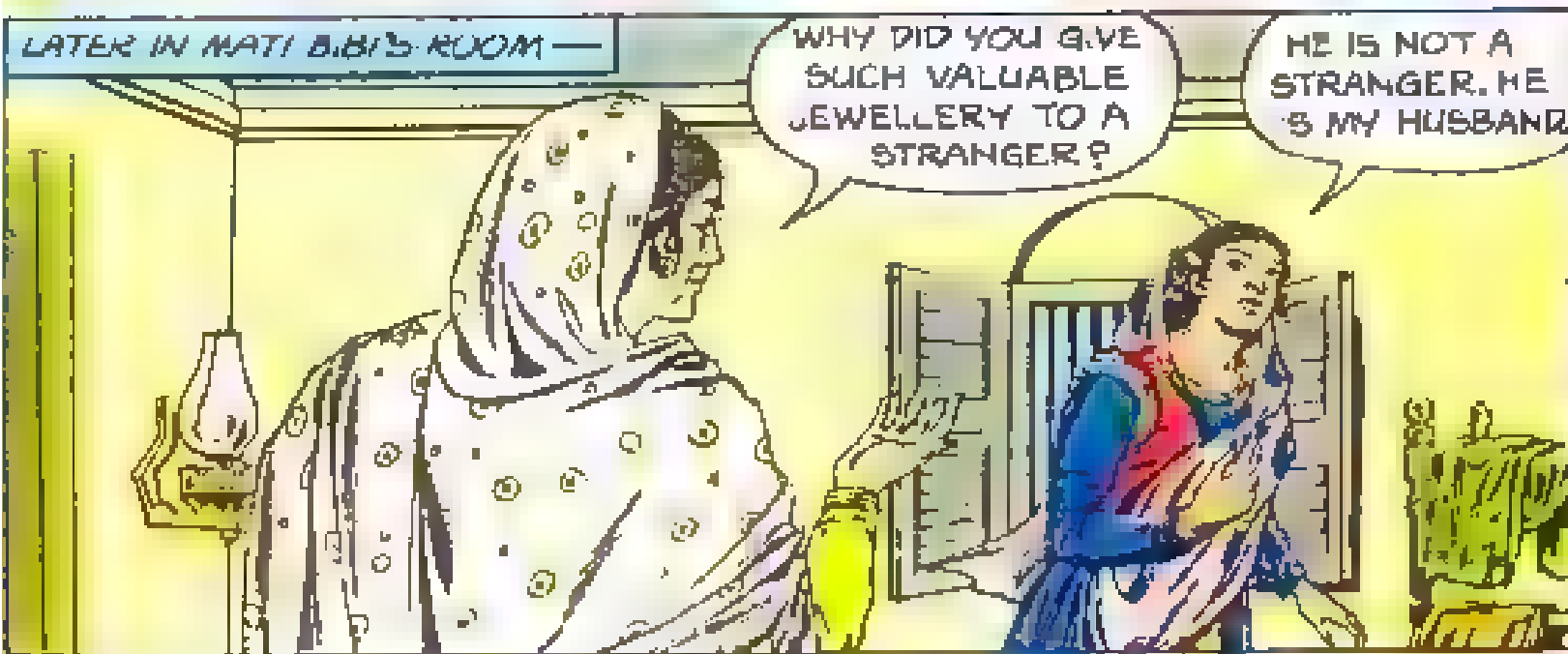
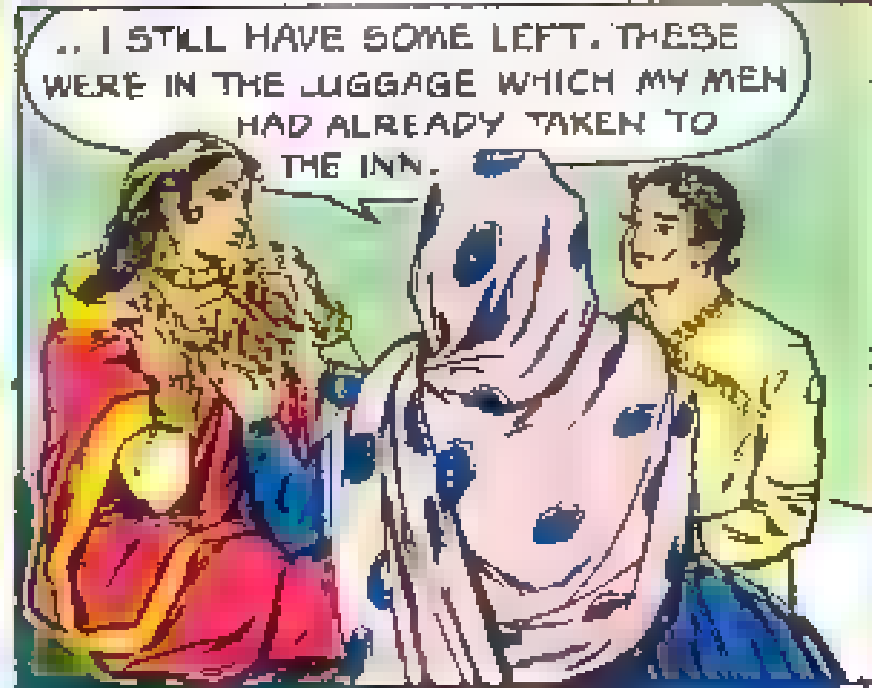
MY NAME IS MATI BIBI. I HAVE COME TO THANK YOU

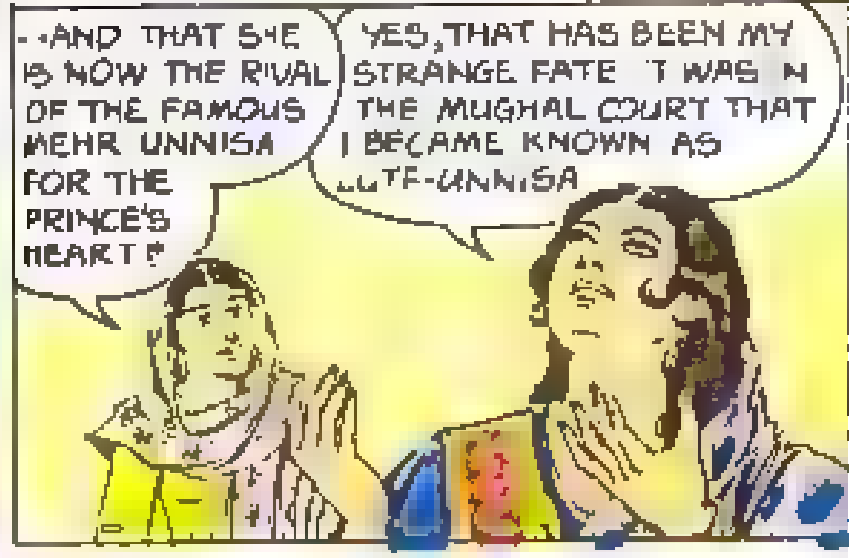
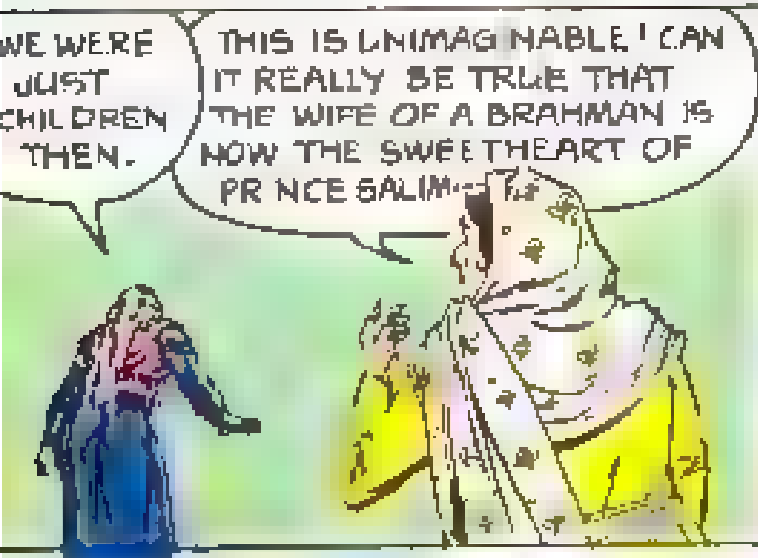
THIS IS MY WIFE, KAPALA KUNDALA. I AM NAVAKUMAR SHARMA OF SAPTAGRAM.

SO IT IS HIM!

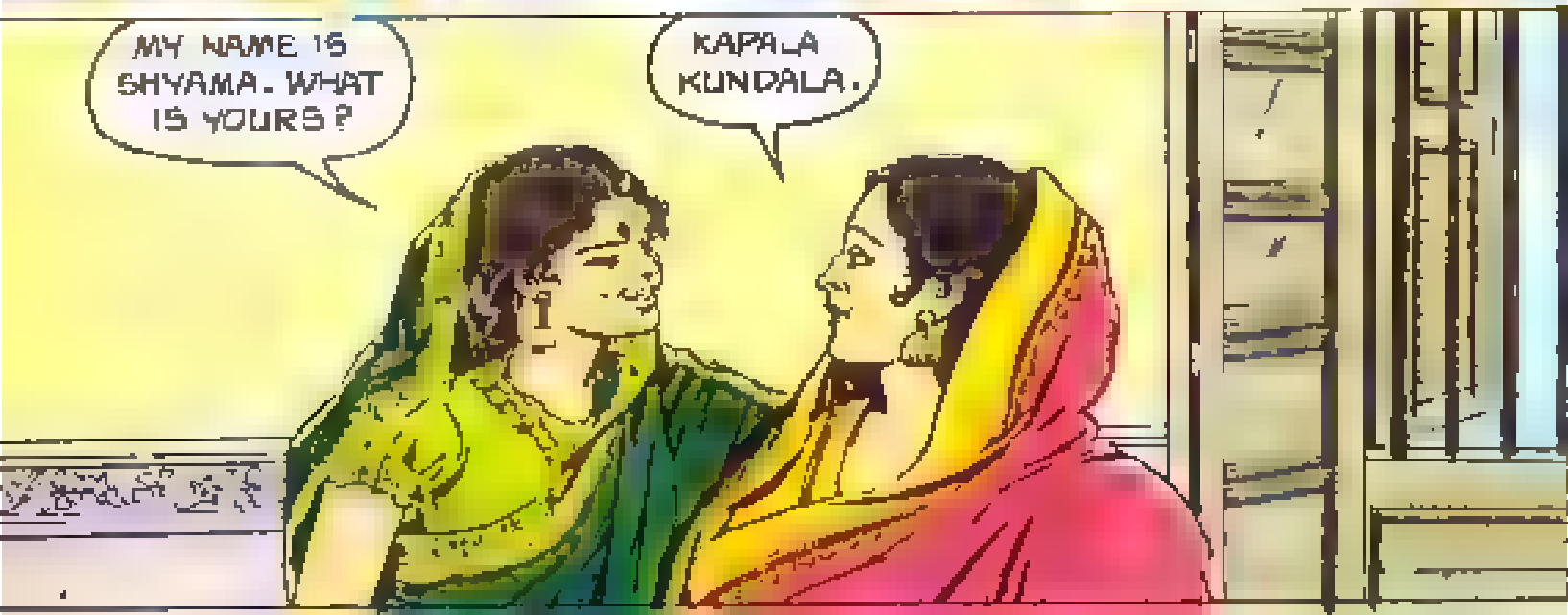
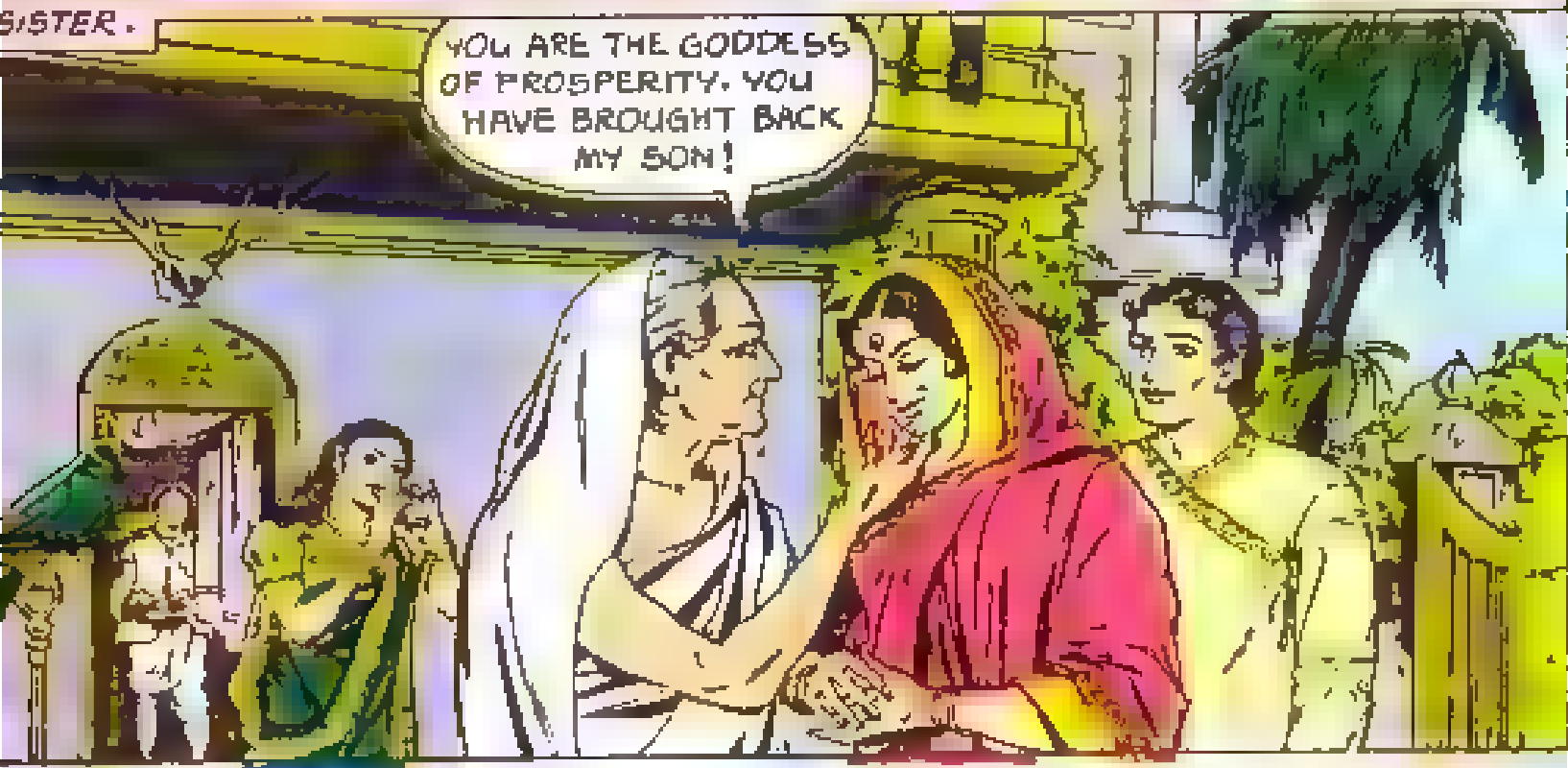
PLEASE ACCEPT THESE ORNAMENTS AS TOKENS OF MY GRATITUDE.

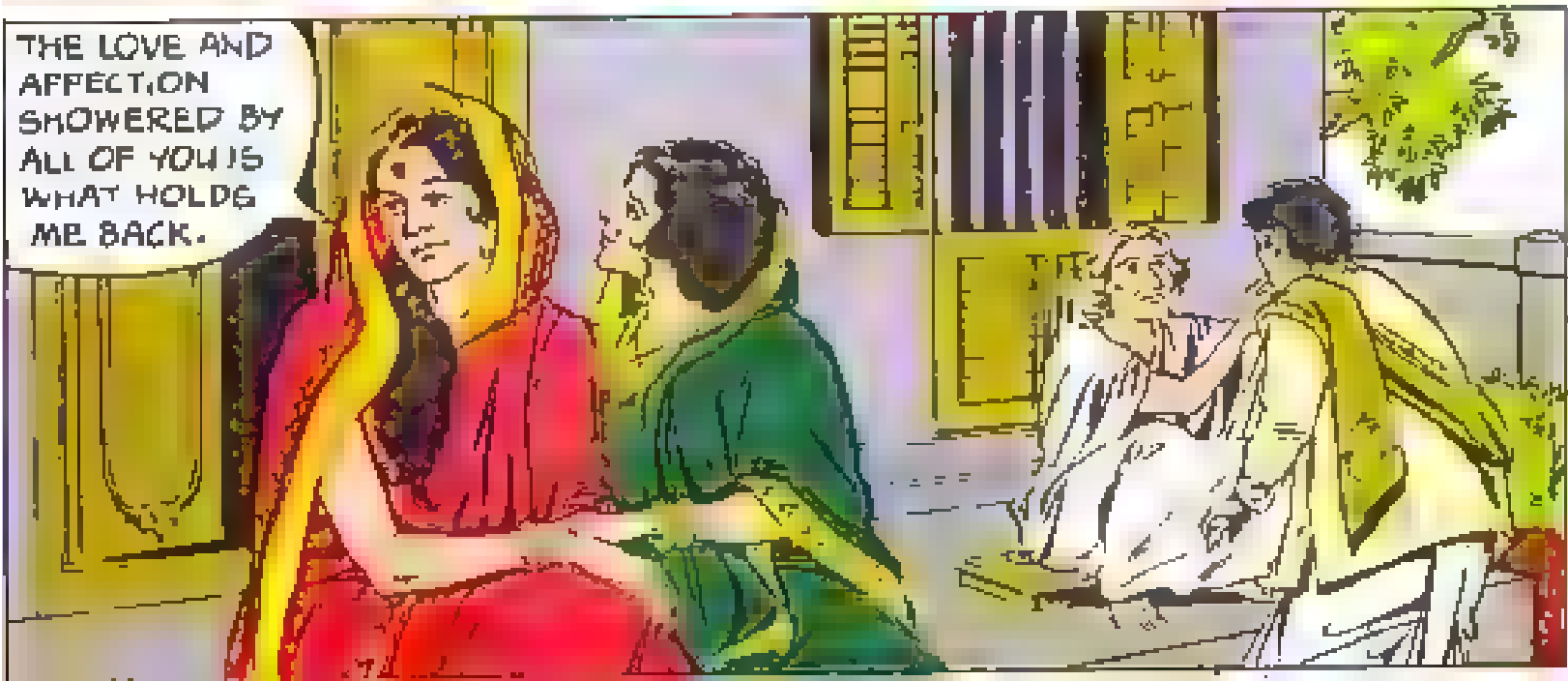
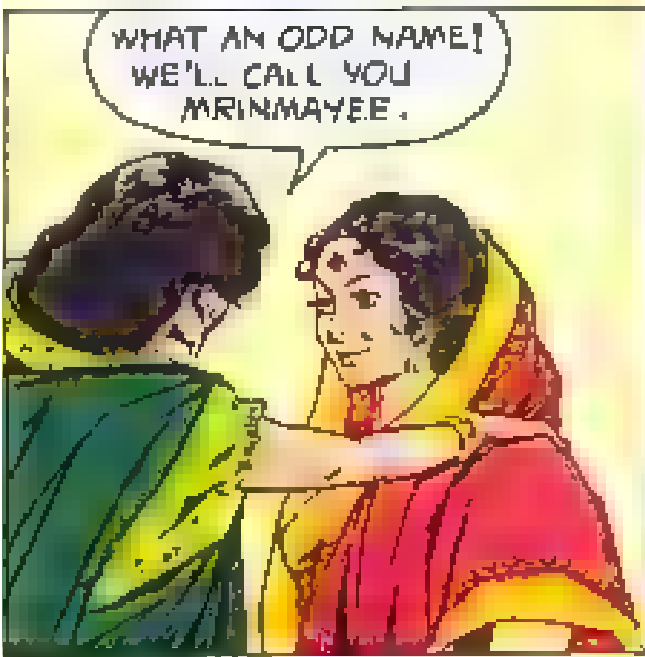
BUT THESE ARE VERY VALUABLE ORNAMENTS!

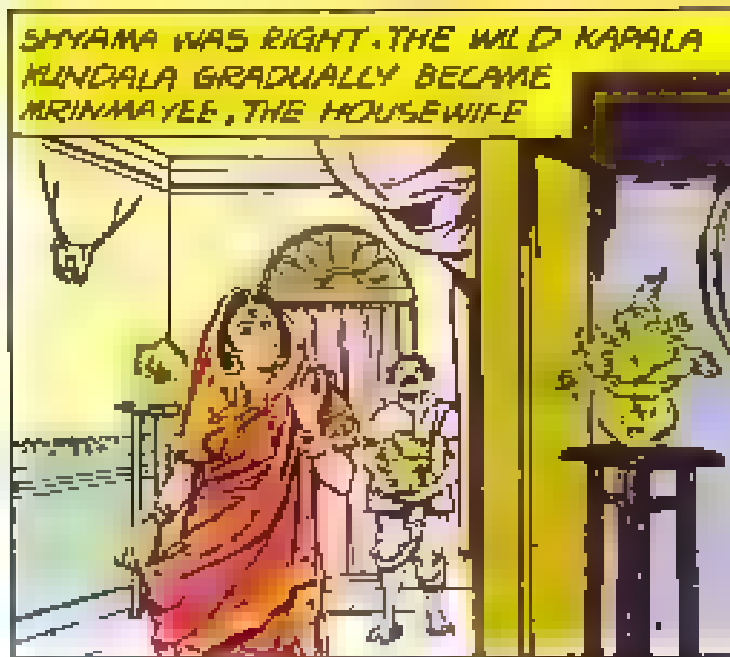
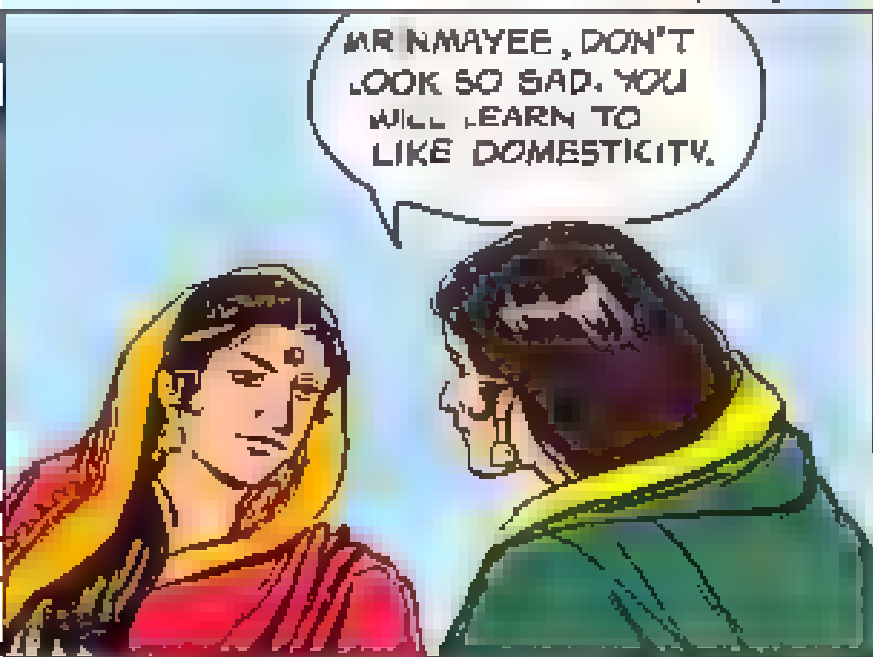




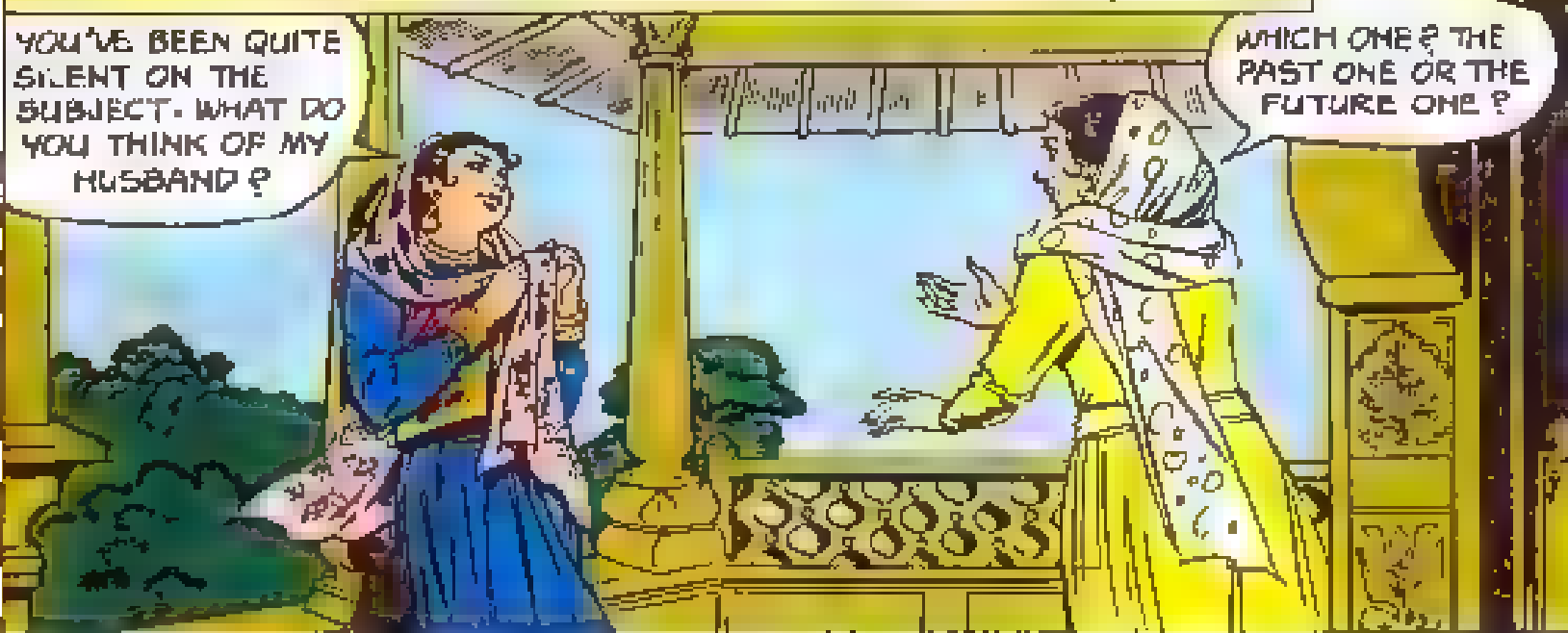
A FEW DAYS LATER, NAVAKUMAR ARRIVED AT SAPTAGRAM WITH HIS BRIDE. ON REACHING HOME, THEY RECEIVED A JOYOUS WELCOME FROM HIS MOTHER AND SISTER.







IN THE MEAN TIME, MATI DIBI HAD RETURNED TO AGRA, BUT HER THOUGHTS WERE STILL WITH HAVAKUMAR. ONE DAY SHE WAS TALKING TO HER MAID



JUST THEN AN ATTENDANT CAME IN.

HAVE YOU HEARD?
EMPEROR AKBAR IS
NO MORE. PRINCE
SALIM WILL BE
CROWNED SOON.

CONGRATULATIONS,
BEGUM SAHIBA.

AM NOT A BEGUM.
I AM LEAVING AGRA
RIGHT NOW!

YOU MUST BE
OUT OF YOUR
MIND!

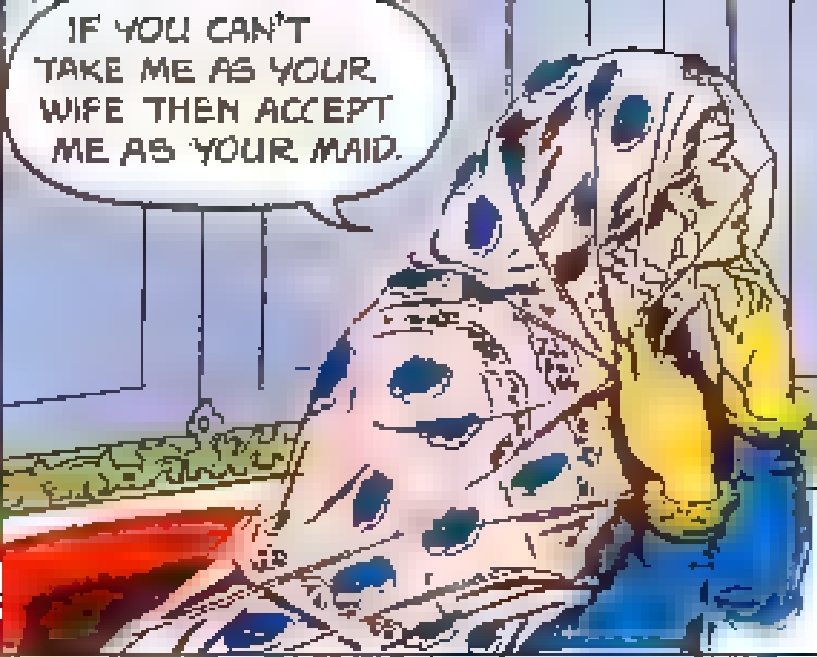
MATI BIBI LEFT AGRA TO SETTLE
DOWN AT SAPTAGRAM

EVEN HERE
I AM NOT HAPPY.
I WON'T BE -
TILL I HAVE
SUCCEEDED IN MY
OBJECTIVE.

ONE DAY SHE SUMMONED NAVAKUMAR.

TAKE ME AS
YOUR WIFE.

HOW CAN YOU
SUGGEST SUCH
A THING! YOU
KNOW I AM
ALREADY
MARRIED.



IF YOU CAN'T
TAKE ME AS YOUR
WIFE THEN ACCEPT
ME AS YOUR MAID.

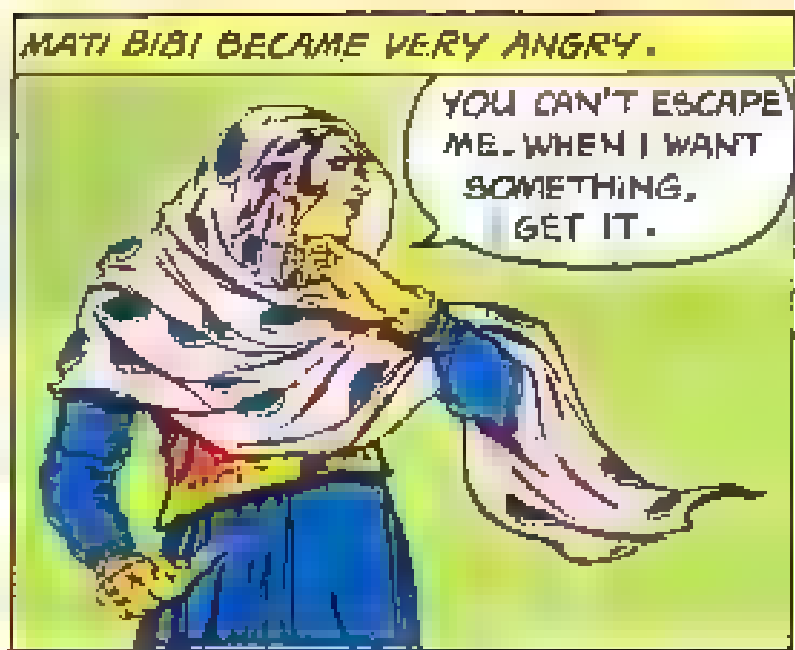


THAT CANNOT BE
A POOR BRAHMAN
CANNOT TAKE A
RICH WOMAN OF
THE COURT AS
HIS MAID.



I WILL OFFER ALL MY
BELONGINGS TO YOU.
DON'T YOU SEE THAT
I HAVE GIVEN UP EVEN
THE THRONE
OF AGRA
FOR YOU?

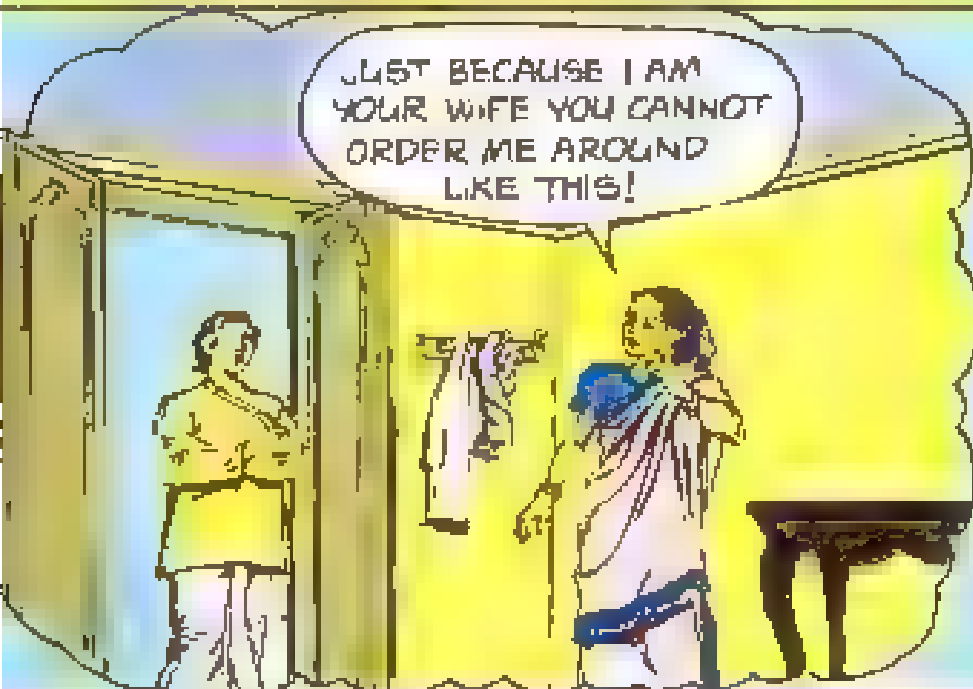
YOU ARE FREE TO
GO BACK TO AGRA.



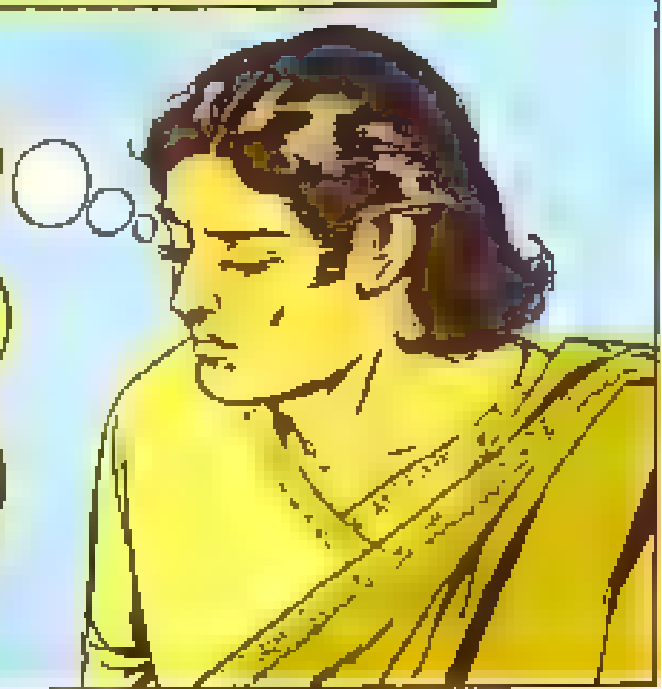
MATI BIBI BECAME VERY ANGRY.

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE
ME. WHEN I WANT
SOMETHING,
GET IT.

HER ANGRY GESTURE REVIVED A CHILDHOOD MEMORY IN NAVAKUMAR



JUST BECAUSE I AM
YOUR WIFE YOU CANNOT
ORDER ME AROUND
LIKE THIS!



HE LOOKED AT HER KEENLY.

WHO ARE YOU?
ANSWER ME!

I AM
PADMAVATI.
YOU
REMEMBER
ME NOW?



PADMAVATI!
MY GOD!

YOU'LL HEAR
FROM ME SOON.
GOODBYE!



WITHOUT WAITING FOR HIS REPLY, SHE LEFT THE ROOM. DUMBFOUNDED NAVAKUMAR STARTED TO GO OUT.

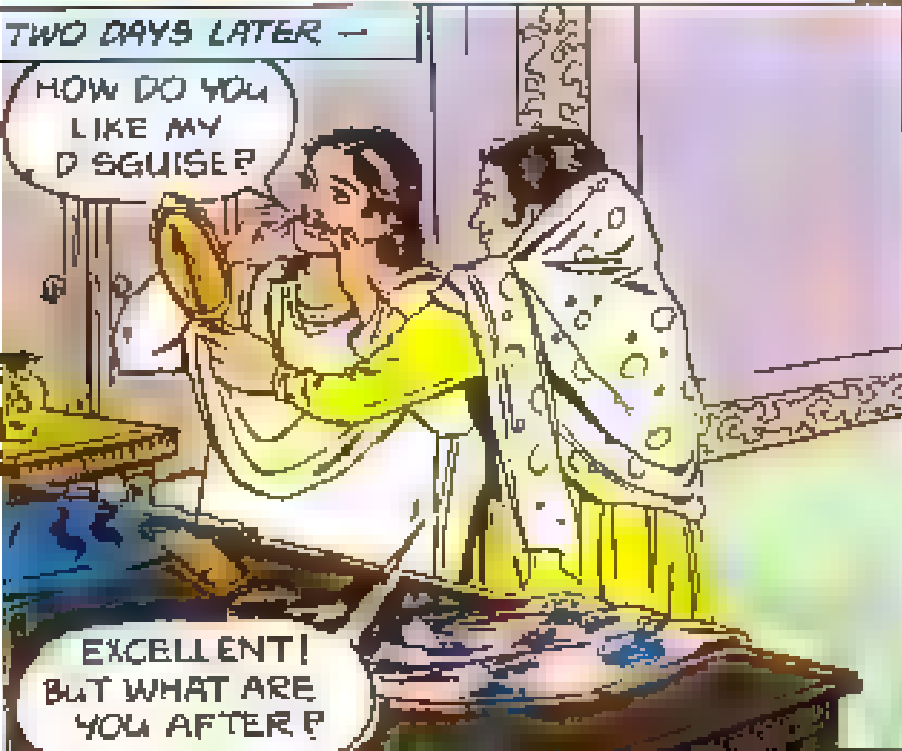


POOR PADMAVATI!
HOW CAN I TAKE HER
BACK NOW? THAT
WOULD BE
UNTHINKABLE IN
OUR SOCIETY



TWO DAYS LATER —

HOW DO YOU
LIKE MY
DISGUISE?



EXCELLENT!
BUT WHAT ARE
YOU AFTER?

FIRST, KAPALA
KUNDALA'S
DEATH. SECOND,
REUNION WITH
MY HUSBAND.



DISGUISED AS A MAN, MATI BIB. WENT TO THE FOREST NEAR NAVAKUMAR'S HOUSE TO WAIT FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY OUT HER PLANS. HOWEVER, HER ATTENTION WAS DIVERTED.



GOING NEARER SHE SAW THE KAPALIK PERFORMING SOME RITES AND CHANTING THE NAME KAPALA KUNDALA "REPEATEDLY. SUDDENLY THE KAPALIK BECAME AWARE OF HER.

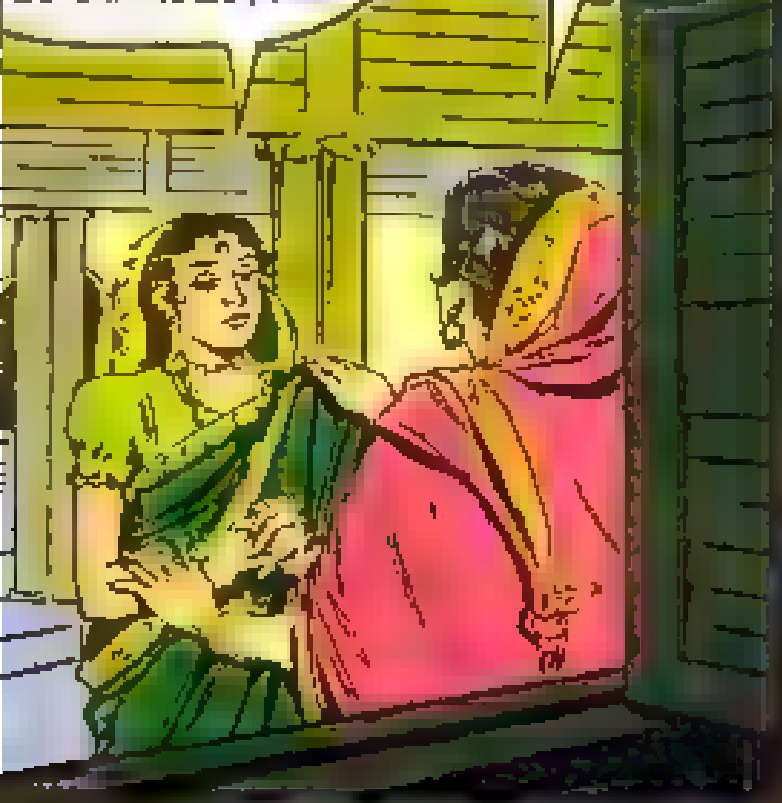


THE TWO BEGAN TO PLOT.

MEANWHILE —

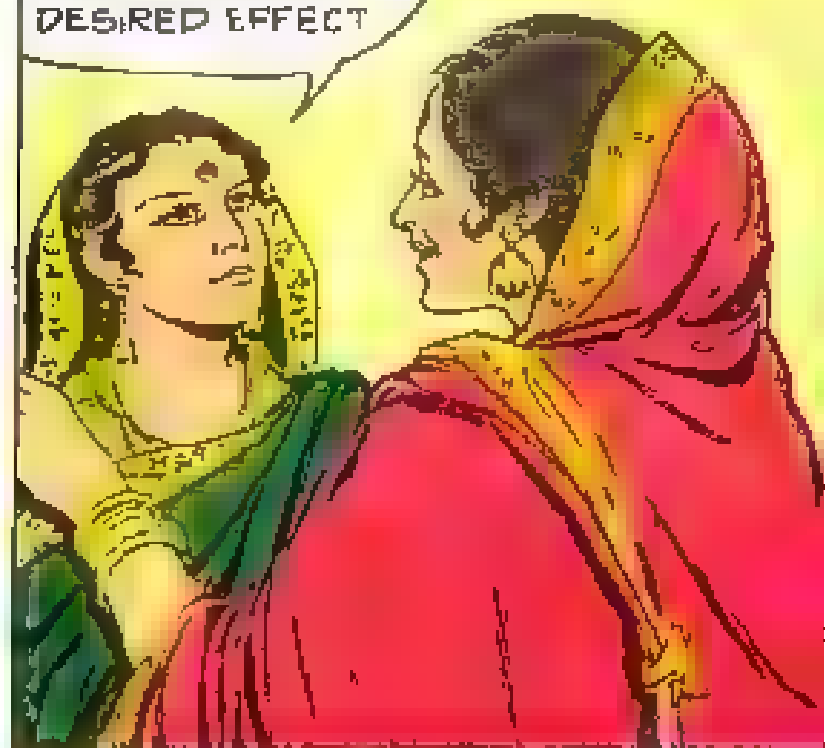
MRINMAYEE, I NEED A MEDICINAL HERB FROM THE FOREST. BUT IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFICULT.

WHY? WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, SHYAMA?



THE HERB MUST BE PLUCKED BY A WOMAN EXACTLY AT MIDNIGHT. AND SHE MUST BE ALONE. OTHERWISE IT WON'T HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECT

YOU KNOW THAT I DON'T FEAR THE JUNGLE. I'LL GET IT FOR YOU.



BUT MY BROTHER MAY OBJECT

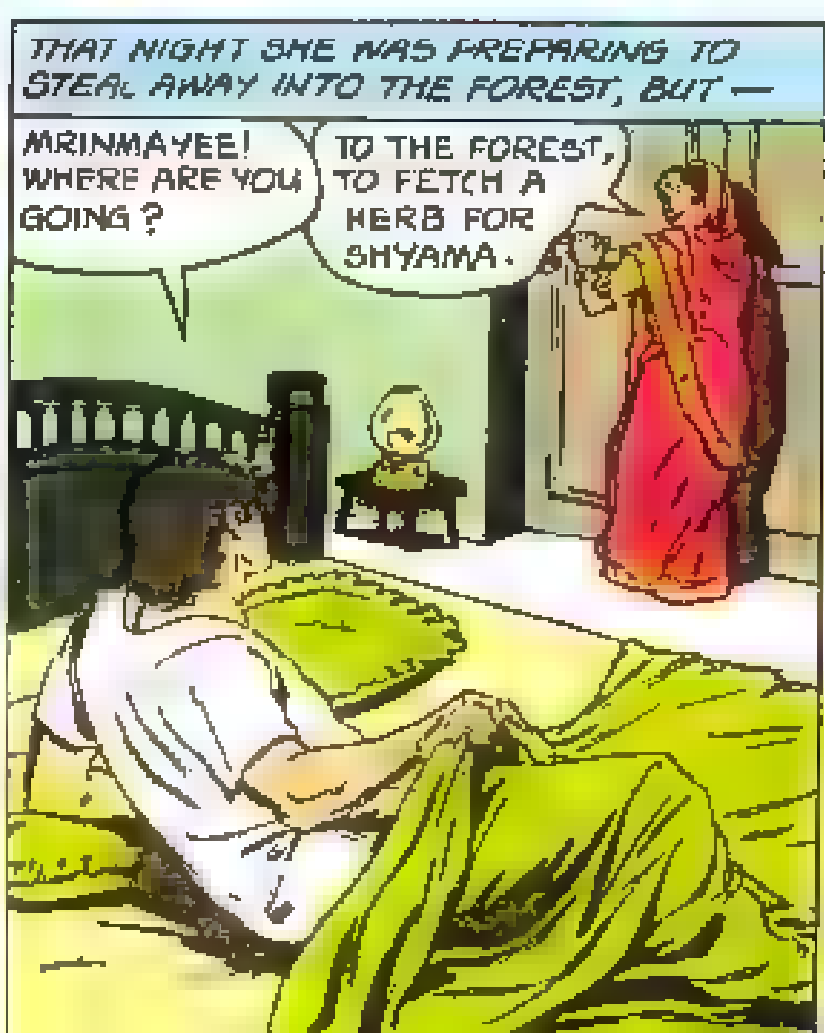
WHY SHOULD HE? AND IF HE DOES, SHOULD I OBEY HIM EVEN IF HE IS UNJUST?

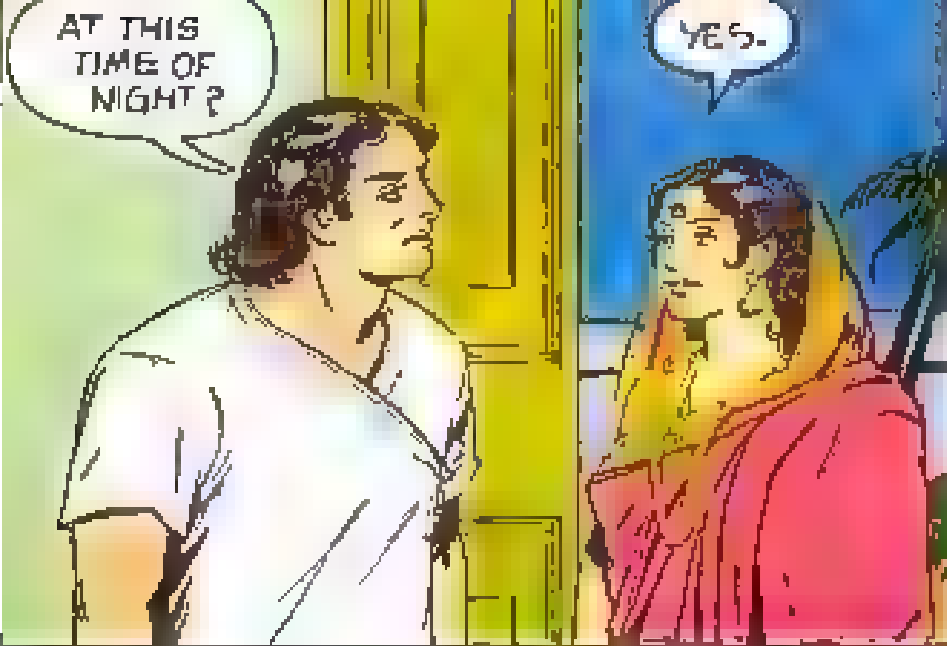


THAT NIGHT SHE WAS PREPARING TO STEAL AWAY INTO THE FOREST, BUT —

MRINMAYEE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

TO THE FOREST, TO FETCH A HERB FOR SHYAMA.





AT THIS
TIME OF
NIGHT?

YES.

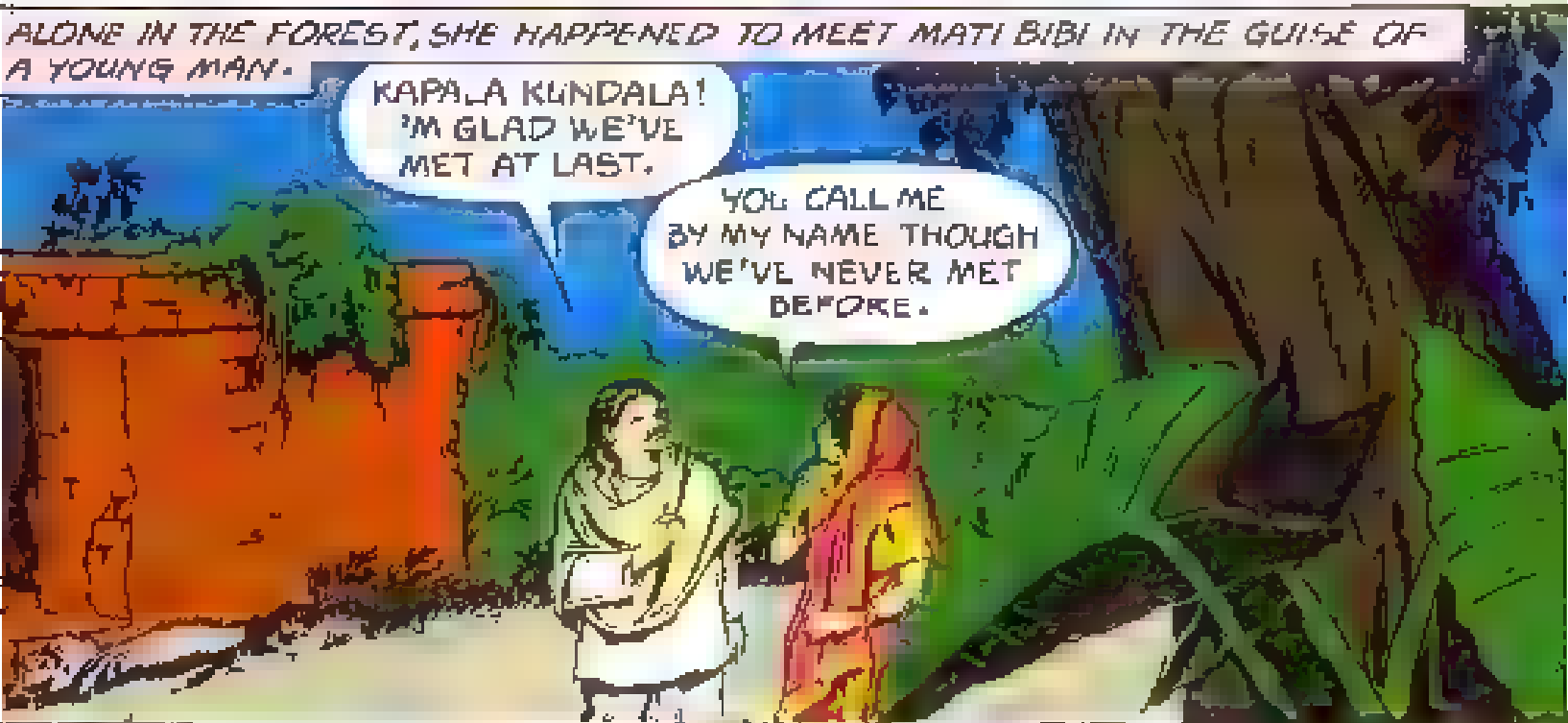
SHE EXPLAINED WHY SHE HAD
TO GO ALONE. NAVAKUMAR
RELUCTANTLY LET HER GO



ALONE IN THE FOREST, SHE HAPPENED TO MEET MATI BIBI IN THE GUISE OF
A YOUNG MAN.

KAPALA KUNDALA!
'M GLAD WE'VE
MET AT LAST.

YOU CALL ME
BY MY NAME THOUGH
WE'VE NEVER MET
BEFORE.



DON'T BE AFRAID.
I AM A WOMAN AS YOU
ARE. THERE IS A
REASON FOR THIS
DISGUISE.



MATI BIBI LED KAPALA KUNDALA TO THE PLACE WHERE THE KAPALIK WAS PERFORMING HIS RITES.

KAPALA KUNDALA
MUST BE
DESTROYED.

YOU SEE! YOU ARE
IN GREAT DANGER. IF
YOU FOLLOW MY
ADVICE, YOU
MAY BE
SAVED.

KAPALA KUNDALA RECOGNISED THE KAPALIK IMMEDIATELY AND WAS PETRIFIED.

WHAT SHOULD
I DO?

WE MUST KEEP
A WATCH ON HIM
FOR A FEW DAYS
AND THEN
DECIDE WHAT
TO DO.



KAPALA KUNDALA KEPT HER WORD,
BUT SHE SAID NOTHING ABOUT IT
TO HER HUSBAND. A FEW DAYS
LATER —

HRINMAYLE IS
GOING OUT
AGAIN! AND
SECRETLY!
MUST FOLLOW
HER TO SEE
WHERE SHE
IS GOING.



SHE COMES
HERE TO MEET
THIS YOUNG
MAN!



NOW YOU CAN
SEE FOR YOUR-
SELF HOW
THINGS ARE.



MY GOD!
IT'S YOU!

DON'T BE AFRAID, NAVA-
KUMAR! IT'S TRUE I WAS
ONCE GOING TO SACRIFICE
YOU TO THE GODDESS KALI,
BUT I HAVE BECOME OLD
NOW AND CANNOT
HARM YOU



KAPALA KUNDALA,
HOWEVER, DISPLEASED
KAL WHEN SHE
RESCUED YOU.

IF SHE HAD NOT
DONE THAT, YOU
WOULD HAVE
KILLED ME!



I WAS ONLY THE AGENT,
IT WAS KALI'S WISH BUT
NOW SHE WANTS KAPALA
KUNDALA'S BLOOD.



YOU ALSO DISPLEASED
THE GODDESS BY RUNNING
AWAY. NOW YOU CAN
ATONE BY SACRIFICING
YOUR WIFE TO KALI.

YOU ARE
CRAZY!



DON'T YOU SEE,
SHE IS UNFAITHFUL
AS WELL?

JEALOUSY GAINED THE UPPER
HAND.



I'LL DO IT.
YES, SHE IS
UNFAITHFUL
TO ME.

THE NEXT EVENING —

MRINMAYEE!
COME HERE.



WHAT IS IT? I'M BUSY.
I'M JUST GETTING
READY TO GO OUT.



I KNOW WHERE YOU
ARE GOING! YOU ARE
GOING TO THE
FOREST!



WHAT!

I'LL TAKE
YOU THERE.



NAVAKUMAR FORCED HER TO ACCOMPANY HIM.

BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

MRINMAYEE! THE TIME HAS COME TO ANSWER FOR YOUR SINS. I AM TAKING YOU TO THE KAPALIK.

YOU HAVE BEEN UNFAITHFUL TO ME.

THAT'S NOT TRUE. HOWEVER, I DON'T WISH TO DEFEND MYSELF....

I'D RATHER DIE THAN BE SUSPECTED BY YOU.

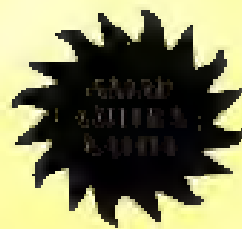
IS SHE INNOCENT?

AS THEY CAME NEAR THE PLACE OF SACRIFICE, NAVAKUMAR SUDDENLY CAME TO HIS SENSES.

THAT IS THE MAN WHO WANTED TO KILL ME!



IT HAD ALL STARTED IN THE FOREST AND WAS ABOUT TO END IN THE FOREST. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AFTERWARDS TO THE EVIL KAPALUK AND MATI BIBI. THEY WERE LEFT IN THE DARK WHILE NAVAKUMAR AND KAPALA KUNDALA CAME BACK TO THE LIGHT.



Illustrated Classics From India

Bengali Classics

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (1838–1894) is considered to be one of the greatest writers in the world of Bengali literature. This *Amar Chitra Katha* volume presents three of his famous stories.

The first, *Ananda Math*, is considered to be a milestone in the history of modern fiction in India. It received such wide acclaim in the late 19th century that Bankim Chandra, its author, was referred to as the Walter Scott of India. This story vividly depicts the struggle for freedom in 1773 Bengal. In the face of all the misery, one man named Satyananda yearned for truth, justice and freedom. Translations of this story appeared in Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi and Urdu. The song *Vande Mataram*, which Bankim Chandra first wrote in this novel, echoed through the Indian freedom movement; during the Non-Cooperation movement the song was heard on the lips of many, while they braved the lathis of the British police force.

Bankim Chandra wrote *Kapala Kundala* when he was only 28 years old. The name *Kapala Kundala* has been taken from the Sanskrit play, *Malati-Madhava*. In the play, Kapala is the associate of the evil *kapalik*, Aghora Ghanta, and she is as heinous as her mentor. But although our heroine in *Kapala Kundala* was also brought up by an evil *kapalik*, she is full human affection and kindness. While presenting this fascinating tale of romance, certain events and characters have been omitted and the story has been modified to make it suitable for children.

The third story *Devī Choudhurani* is an enthralling, adventurous and romantic story. Both Devī Choudhurani and her mentor, Bhavari Pathak, are historical characters who figure in the report of Lieutenant Brennan, quoted by Hunter in his 'Statistical Account of Bengal'. There is no historical explanation of what converted the young, vulnerable Prafulla into the great Devī Choudhurani in the first place, and what made her give it up later. However, Bankim Chandra's fertile imagination has provided answers to these puzzling questions in his novel, on which our tale is based.

Editor: Anant Pal

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